PLANTING IDEAS • BEAUTIFUL GARDENS • EXPERT ADVICE

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

BRITISH STYLE *SPECIAL*

Dan Pearson's
cool, contemporary design for
JUERGEN TELLER

Arabella Lennox-Boyd's
bold and romantic twist on classic style

Penelope Hobhouse
on painting with plants

70
BEAUTIFUL PLANTS
for late summer

Planting ideas for
A CHANGING CLIMATE

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choosing and growing elegant
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Editor's letter

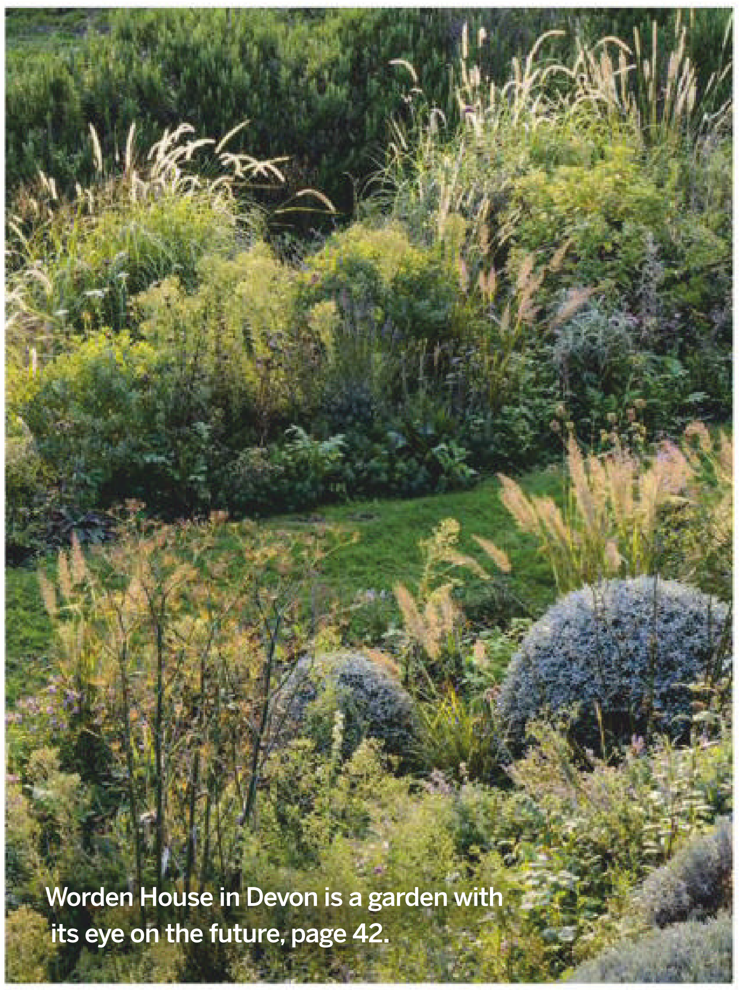
The September issue of *Gardens Illustrated* includes the modern yet timeless and achingly cool garden Dan Pearson has designed for fashion and art photographer Juergen Teller. Fittingly for a photography studio, Dan's design emphasises the play of light on foliage. It has also been influenced by the extensive time he has spent in Japan and references *tsubo-niwa*, a Japanese style of courtyard garden, where the garden is contained within the building. A pared-back planting plan, raw materials that include concrete saved from the studio's renovation works broken up and used as a mulch between the planting and a plant palette that is graphic yet fecund – in part the thinking behind the design was to imagine how the building and the garden might look if they were left to nature and untouched for 30 years.

Garden designer Conrad Batten is a former pupil of the renowned forest gardener Martin Crawford and at Worden House in Devon, Conrad has created a productive Mediterranean forest garden along similar sustainable principles, with thoughts on climate change at the fore. Skilfully woven into the Devon countryside, the garden is breathtakingly beautiful with sinuous pathways, loosely clipped shrubs, French almond, apricot and peach trees and a large grove of largely Tuscan olives, *Olea europaea* 'Frantoio'. The olives are underplanted with a meadow that is alive with wildlife; butterflies and birds abound among the flowers. Conrad cites Martin as suggesting ten years ago that in 30 years' time the UK is likely to have a climate similar to that of Bordeaux. Worden is a forward-thinking and boldly inspirational garden in seemingly changing times.

I hope you enjoy the issue,

Lucy Bellamy

LUCY BELLAMY, EDITOR



Worden House in Devon is a garden with its eye on the future, page 42.

JASON INGRAM

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ANDREW MONTGOMERY

Pared-back style in Dan Pearson's design for the garden at photographer Juergen Teller's studio, page 60.

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The Hermitage
by Jason Ingram

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- Win an elegant plant obelisk from Harrod Horticultural, worth £290† – page 105
- Get 10% discount at Sarah Raven with free P&P† – page 106

†Competition and reader offer open to UK residents only.

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Contributors

John Hoyland
John finds subtle beauty in kniphofia, page 66. *"The sight of hundreds of kniphofia in the wild left an indelible image in my mind and showed me the beauty of these flowers."*

Stephanie Donaldson
Stephanie visits a stunning garden near Bath, page 32. *"Hidden away in an Arcadian setting, this garden by Arabella Lennox-Boyd is a perfect addition to house and landscape."*

Jason Ingram
Jason photographs a forest garden, page 42. *"This was the first garden of Conrad Batten's I've photographed, it seamlessly extends into the landscape with such ease. I loved it."*

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James Basson
James lives in the South of France where he runs Scape Design with his wife Helen, specialising in low-maintenance and dry gardens. He is a fervent advocate for creating sustainable landscapes. The winner of four Chelsea Gold medals, he was awarded Best in Show in 2017.

Fergus Garrett
Fergus was appointed head gardener at Great Dixter by Christopher Lloyd in 1993. He is passionate about passing on his knowledge through student programmes at Dixter and worldwide lectures. He was awarded an RHS Associate of Honour in 2008 and an RHS Victoria Medal of Honour in 2019.

Anna Pavord
Anna's books include her bestseller *The Tulip* and most recently *Landskipping*. For 30 years she was *The Independent*'s gardening correspondent. In 2000 the RHS awarded her the Veitch Memorial Medal. She lives and gardens in Dorset.

Dan Pearson
Dan is one of the UK's best-known garden designers, familiar to many through his gardening columns in the *Observer* magazine. Eight of his gardens, including the Tokachi Millennium Forest in Japan, have won awards and he was awarded Best in Show for his garden at Chelsea in 2015.

Sarah Price
Sarah is one of the UK's most sought-after garden designers who won worldwide recognition for her designs for the 2012 London Olympic Park. She won Gold at Chelsea in 2012 and 2018, and was GMG Garden Columnist of the Year in 2016 for her design series in *Gardens Illustrated*.

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DIG IN

What's happening, where to go, what's in flower and what to buy this month

Home style

Whether you have a passion for pileas, are mad about monsteras, or just want to learn a little bit more about greening your home, the new Houseplant Festival at London's Garden Museum promises to be your perfect day out this month. Curated by *Telegraph* journalist Alice Vincent, better known to her many Instagram followers as @noughticulture, the one-day festival is an opportunity to get expert advice on how to care for your houseplants, take part in workshops and plant swaps and, of course, do a little plant shopping from a host of houseplant specialists, including Forest, Patch Plants and London Terrariums. Tickets cost £5, which includes access to the rest of the museum.
29 September, 11am-5pm.
gardenmuseum.org.uk

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News

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Travel back in time

For many years Hadspen House in Somerset was home to designer Penelope Hobhouse, who created an Arts and Crafts garden in the 1970s. The estate's walled garden was also where Canadian gardeners Nori and Sandra Pope developed their famous colourist borders. Now the house has been transformed into a luxury hotel, The Newt, and the gardens too have undergone a redesign. This month there's the chance to explore its historic gardens in style, with a special weekend day package that includes first class travel from London, a tour of the gardens with the garden team, cider tastings, workshops and lunch, for £285. See website for details. **thenewtinsomerset.com**

SPACE TO REFLECT

Steel Breeze, the latest addition to David Harber's range of garden sculptures, is a striking piece made from mirror-polished stainless steel. Featuring two parallel, circular discs, which have been laser cut in an elaborate pattern to reveal the space between them, the piece also comes with internal lighting so it can be enjoyed at night. Prices start at £13,666 (plus VAT) for a 1.2m statue. **davidharber.co.uk**

MARK BOLTON PHOTOGRAPHY; IBULB

NATURAL BUZZ

As you narrow down your list of bulbs to plant this autumn, give some thought to how they've been grown. If you want to ensure your bulbs are pesticide free, take a look at new online shop Organic Bulbs. Established by garden designers Lulu Urquhart and Adam Hunt, its range includes bulbs that naturalise well, such as Tulipa turkestanica *(right), and all are sourced only from organic growers.* ***organicbulbs.com***

GET A TASTE FOR GROWING YOUR OWN
There are many pleasures to taking on an allotment – not least the ready supply of flavoursome, fresh fruit and vegetables – but it can feel like a big commitment. If you're tempted, but want to find out more about what's involved, then this month there's the chance to visit several allotments and community gardens opening under National Garden Scheme. It's an opportunity to find out what's involved and get tips from other growers. **ngs.org.uk/grow-your-own-gardens**

Red hot

Among the new introductions at this year's RHS Tatton Flower Show, was this small but perfectly formed tomato plant on the Pennard Plants' display. 'Veranda Red' is, as its name suggests, a compact tomato that can be grown in the smallest of spaces. Growing to around 30cm on robust stems that don't need staking, it produces bountiful trusses full of bright-red, cherry tomatoes, ideal for summer snacking. A packet of ten seeds costs £2.50. **pennardplants.com**

HISTORY REVEALED

Now in its 25th year, Heritage Open Days is an opportunity to visit some of England's most famous historic gardens – plus others not normally open to the public – for free. Among this year's highlights are Packwood House (above) in Warwickshire, Stowe in Buckinghamshire with its sweeping lawns and follies, and the Victorian allotments at Durham Cathedral. As well as being a wonderful chance to peek inside some fabulous gardens, Heritage Open Days are also a great way to discover some hidden histories, through fascinating talks, including one this year on how the humble garden gnome has its origins in Renaissance Italy. 13-21 September.
heritageopendays.org.uk

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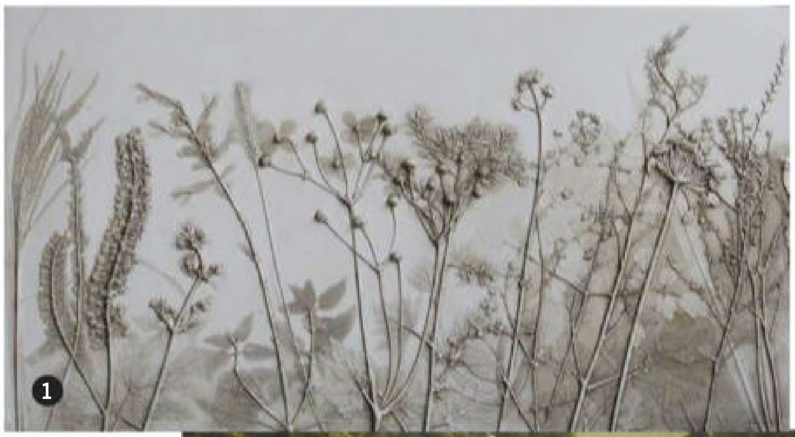

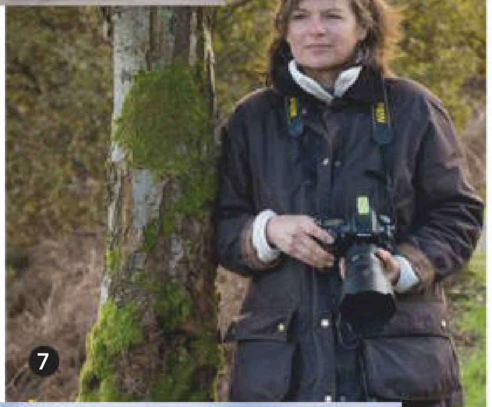

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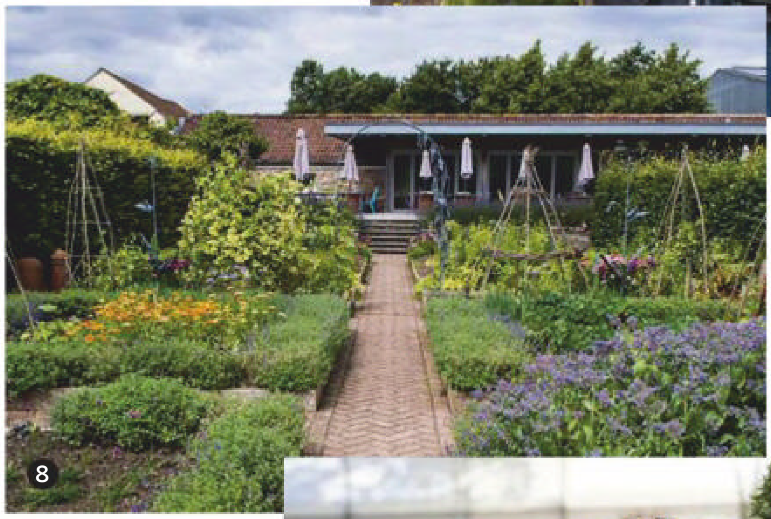


STUART PURFIELD

❶ **Hidcote Through the Seasons with Rachel Dein**
See how artist Rachel Dein has captured the delicate beauty of the changing seasons at Hidcote in this exhibition of her botanical casts of flowers and foliage collected in the historic gardens. Until end of March, free with garden admission. Hidcote Bartrim, nr Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire GL55 6LR. Tel 01386 438333, nationaltrust.org.uk/hidcote

❷ **Old Rectory Opening**
Don't miss a rare chance to visit the contemporary, three-acre garden designed by Anoushka Feiler at the Old Rectory in Northamptonshire when it opens for the NGS this month. 1 September. £10 (tickets must be booked in advance). Old Rectory, Quinton Preston Deanery Road, Quinton, Northamptonshire NN7 2ED. ngs.org.uk

❸ **Bold Contemporary Landform Design**
Take a day trip with the Garden Museum to see two gardens – Redhill Lodge and Boughton House (shown) – that have created stunning earthworks as part of their garden design. 4 September, 10.15am-5pm, £135 (tickets must be booked in advance). Meet at Corby railway station, Station Road, Corby, Northamptonshire NN17 1UJ. Tel 020 7401 8865, gardenmuseum.org.uk/garden-visits

❹ **Scottish Rock Garden Festival**
Find out all about rock gardening in this six-day programme of talks and workshops at National Trust for Scotland Inverewe Garden. 4-9 September, 10am-6pm. This event is included in the garden admission price. Poolewe, Achnasheen, Ross-shire IV22 2LG. Tel 01445 712952, nts.org

❺ **Cyanotype Workshop**
Learn how to use this 19th-century photographic process to create beautiful blue botanical prints using sunlight, on this half-day workshop run by artist Sally Gunnett. 15 September, 10am-12pm, £30. Forest, Deptford High Street, London SE8 4NS. Tel 020 8691 5888, forest.london

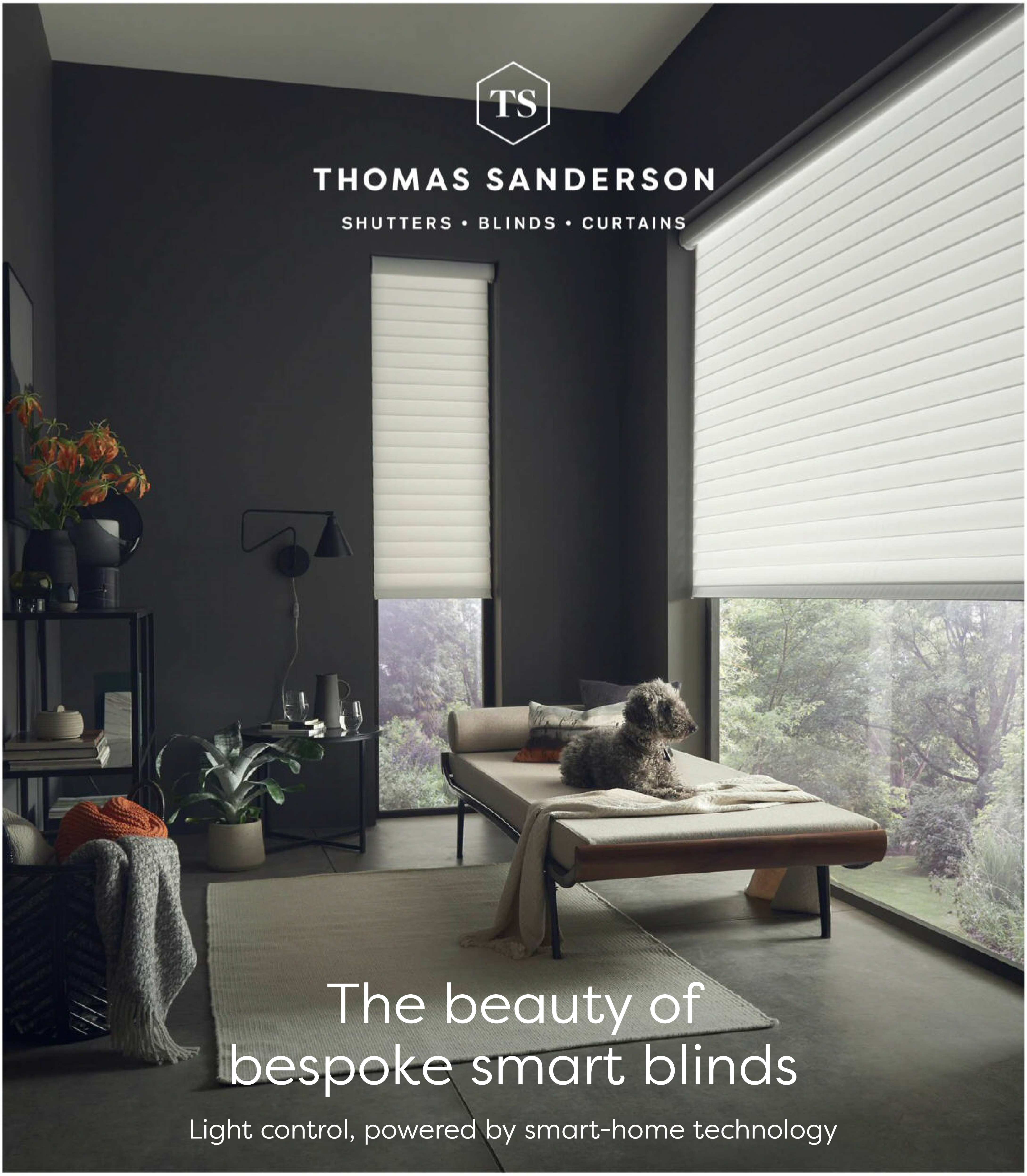
❻ **Magnificent Pots with Sarah Raven**
Discover how to create stylish pots and bulb lasagnes on this one-day course taught by Sarah Raven and Perch Hill's head gardener Josie Lewis. 18 September, 10.30am-4pm. £185. Perch Hill Farm, Willingford Lane, Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5HP. Tel 01424 838000, sarahraven.com

❼ **Garden Photography Workshop with Andrea Jones**
Perfect your photography skills with GMG Garden Photographer of the Year 2018, Andrea Jones. This intensive, weekend course will cover image processing as well as theory and practical photography. 20-22 September, £299. Fairnielaw, Main Street, Athelstaneford, North Berwick EH39 5BE. Tel 01620 880249, eventbrite.com

❽ **Garden Masterclass: The Ultimate Kitchen Garden**
Learn how to put together the perfect combination of flavour and beauty with advice and inspiration from writers and gardeners Mark Diacono and Lia Leendertz. 25 September, 11am-6pm, £140. Yeo Valley Organic Garden, Blagdon, Somerset BS40 7SQ. Tel 01761 462798, yeovalley.co.uk

❾ **Understanding The Garden Environment**
Find out how to test your soil's texture and pH and how to ameliorate it so plants can thrive, on this new one-day course at RHS Garden Wisley. 28 September, 10.15am-4pm. £76. RHS Garden Wisley, Wisley Lane, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB. Tel 020 3176 5830, rhs.org.uk

❿ **Malvern Autumn Show**
Sample the fruits of this year's harvest at the 25th annual Malvern Autumn Show. 28-29 September, 9am-6pm, £22 on the door (see website for discounted tickets). Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire WR13 6NW. Tel 01684 584900, malvernautumn.co.uk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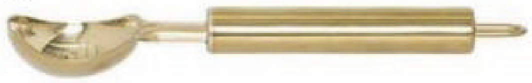

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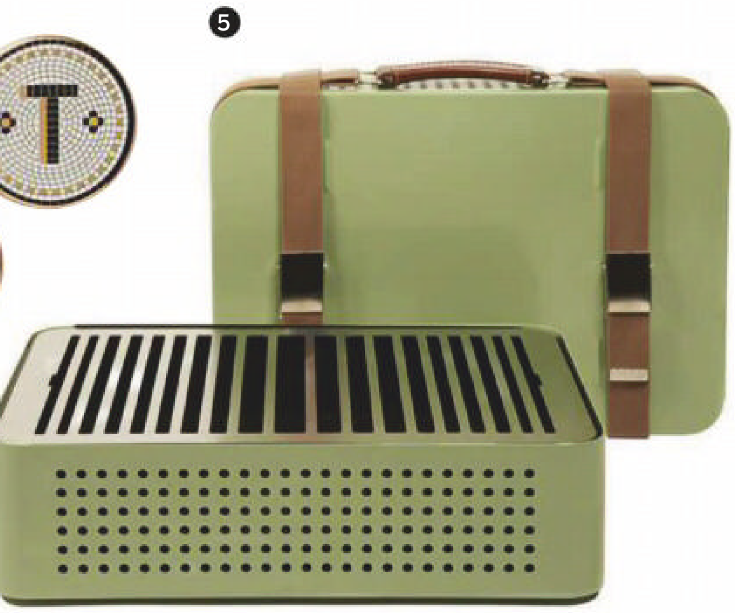

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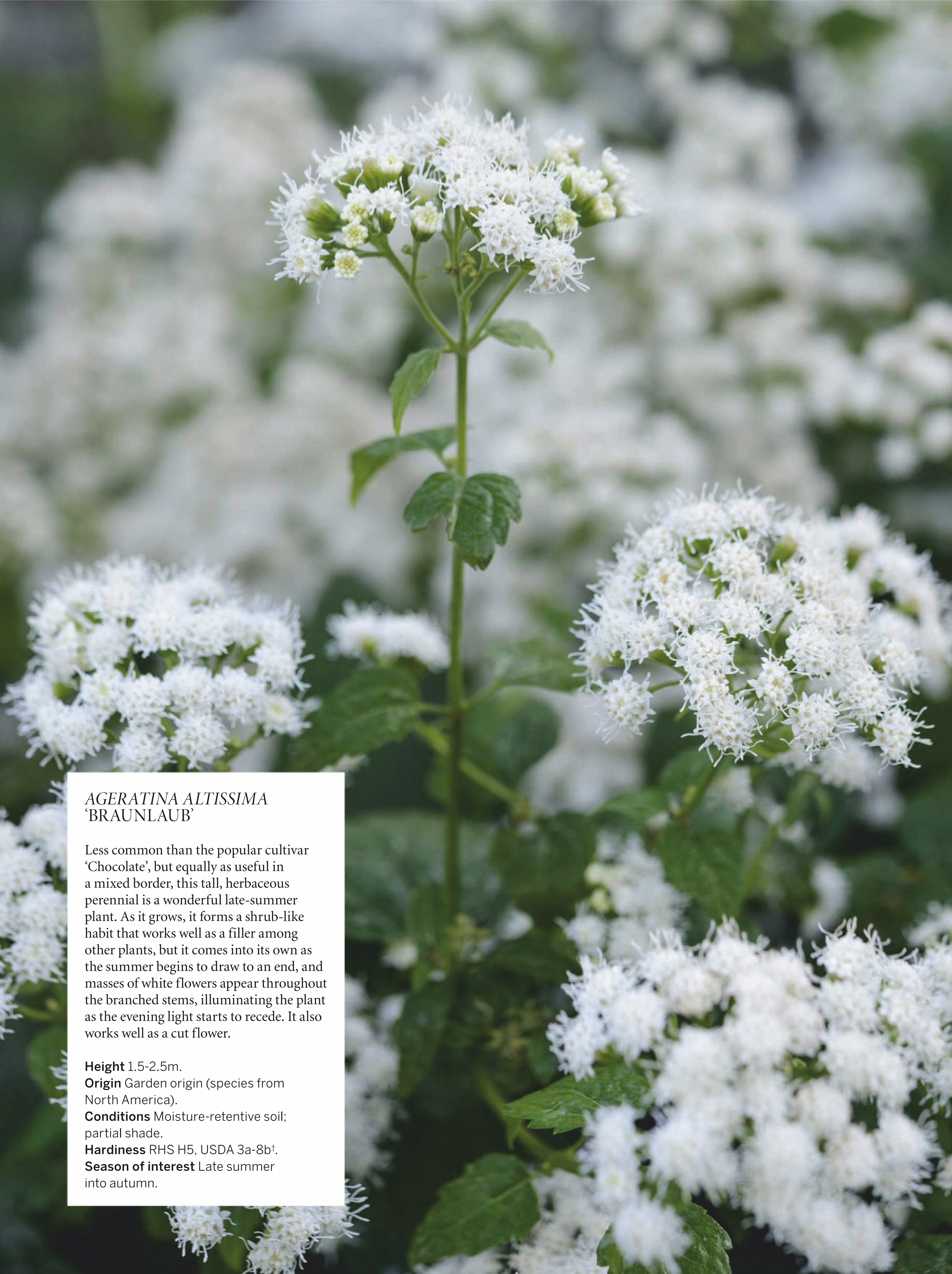


AGERATINA ALTISSIMA 'BRAUNLAUB'

Less common than the popular cultivar 'Chocolate', but equally as useful in a mixed border, this tall, herbaceous perennial is a wonderful late-summer plant. As it grows, it forms a shrub-like habit that works well as a filler among other plants, but it comes into its own as the summer begins to draw to an end, and masses of white flowers appear throughout the branched stems, illuminating the plant as the evening light starts to recede. It also works well as a cut flower.

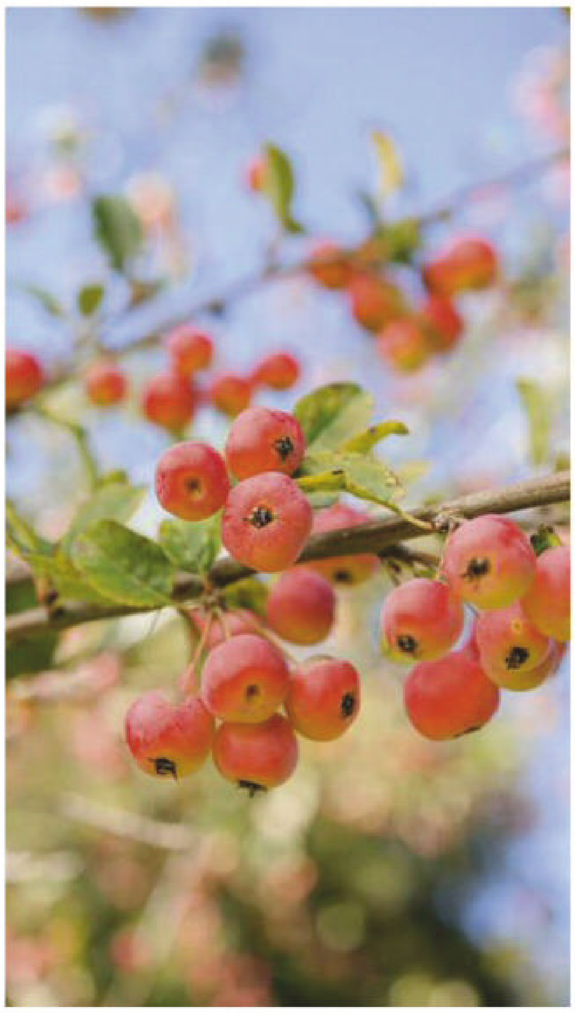
Height 1.5-2.5m.
Origin Garden origin (species from North America).
Conditions Moisture-retentive soil; partial shade.
Hardiness RHS H5, USDA 3a-8b†.
Season of interest Late summer into autumn.

SEPTEMBER PLANTS

A sophisticated Spanish flag and an unusual vine are among Tom's choices for plants that respond well to the warm days and cooler evenings of September

WORDS TOM BROWN PHOTOGRAPHS JASON INGRAM

Tom Brown
is head gardener
at West Dean Gardens
westdean.org.uk



MALUS X ROBUSTA 'RED SENTINEL'

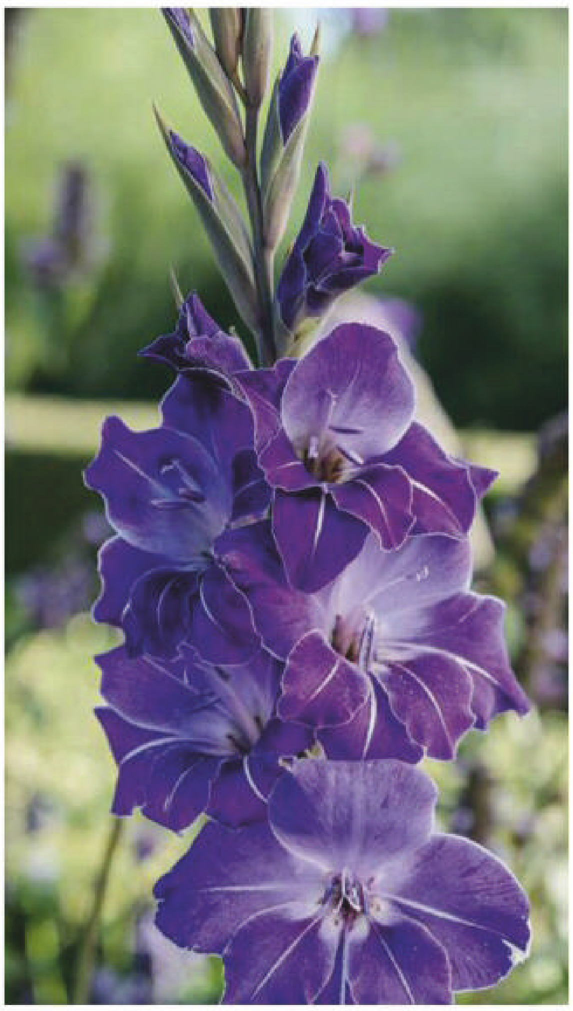
If you're still searching for the perfect tree for a small garden then it's worth considering a crab apple. They tick a lot of boxes, not least because they offer a long period of interest. 'Red Sentinel' blooms incredibly well in April and May, with a tremendous show of white flowers that are blushed pink. Then from September bauble-like, shiny, red fruits are produced in abundance all over the tree's canopy. To my amazement, in a wildlife-filled garden, the fruits persist on the branches until Christmas. AGM*.

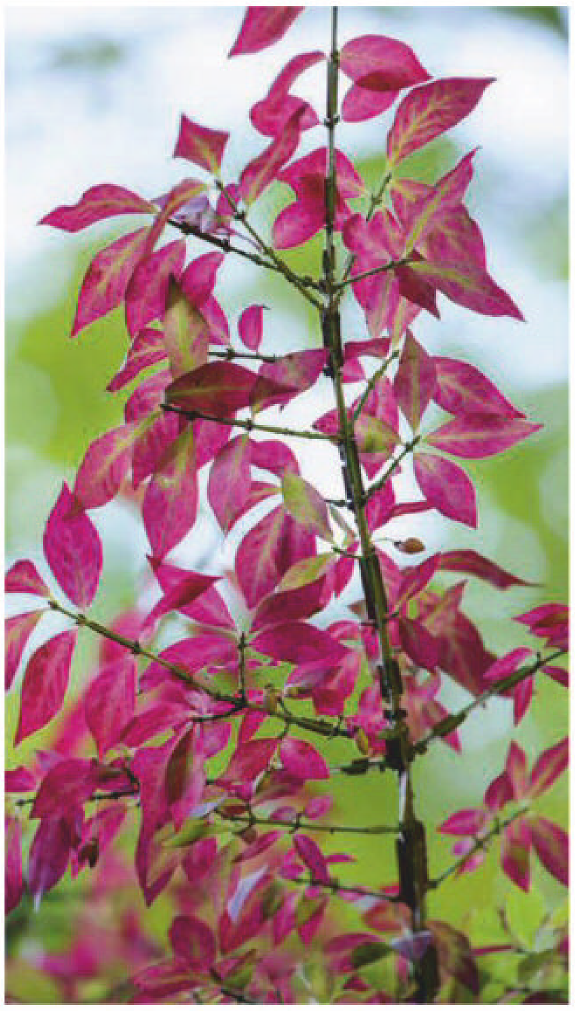
Height 4-8m.
Origin Garden origin.
Conditions Moist but well-drained soil; full sun or part shade.
Hardiness RHS H6, USDA 4a-8b.
Season of interest Fruiting in September/October.

GLADIOLUS 'VIOLETTA'

If I had to choose just one gladioli, it would be this one. It makes a great cut flower and has rich, sophisticated flowers, of the deepest purple, that are produced from corms in late summer. The delicacy of these dwarf cultivars allows them to grow in borders without the need for staking and clumsy supports, and I adore the way this cultivar's flowers work well with so many other garden plants in a border or vase without dominating it. Plant from May until July for continuous colour during late summer and autumn.

Height 1.5m.
Origin Garden hybrid (species from South Africa).
Conditions Fertile, free-draining soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H3, USDA 7a-10b.
Season of interest Mid to late summer.



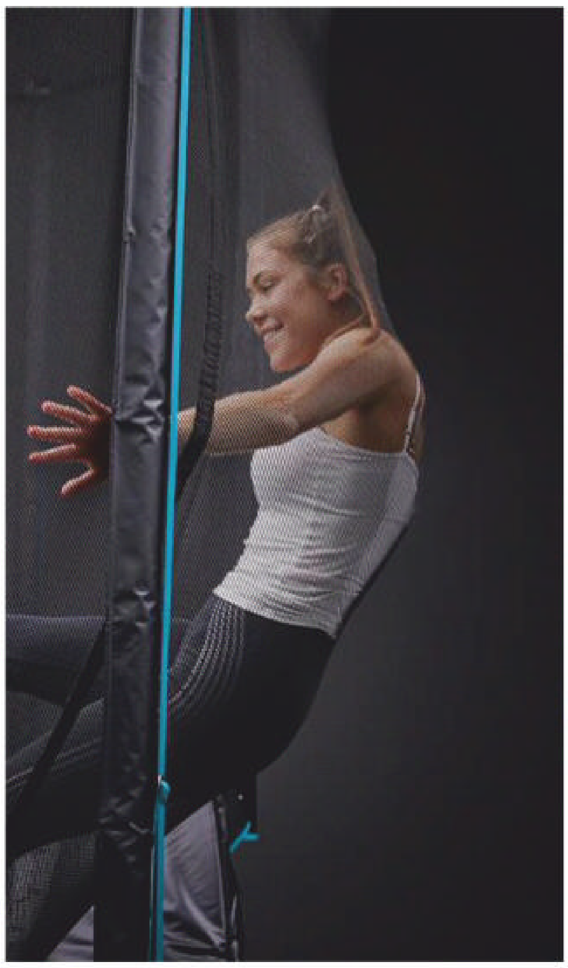


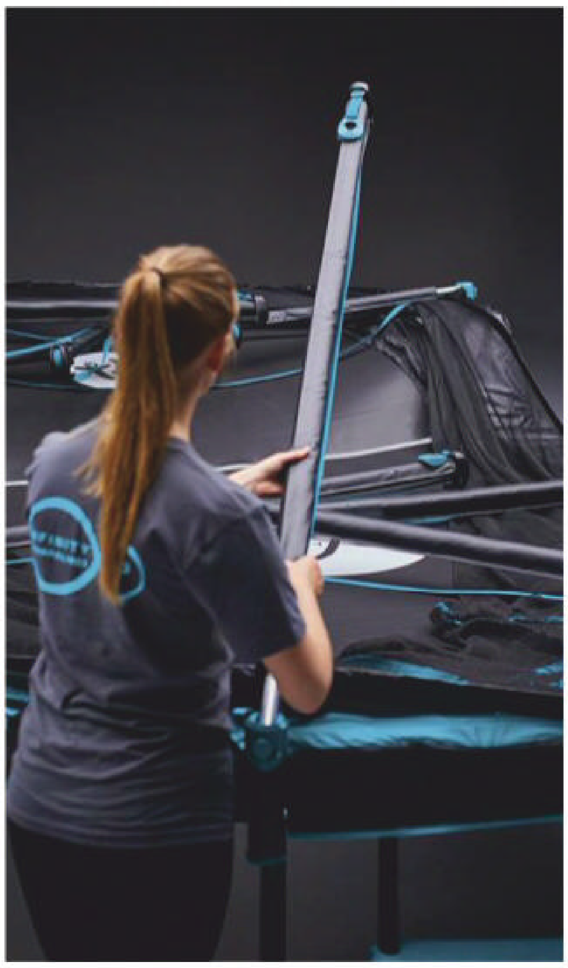
EUONYMUS ALATUS 'COMPACTUS'

In spring and early summer this is an unassuming plant, but once late-summer evenings start to have a nip of cold about them, this glorious shrub becomes a real attention grabber. Its dense, green foliage turns a rich, claret colour, and this autumn foliage is equally attractive when admired up close or from a distance. Few shrubs can rival this neat cultivar for colour when it is in its autumnal glory. AGM.

Height Up to 2m.
Origin Garden origin (species China, Japan, Korea).
Conditions Tolerant of clay and most moisture-retentive soils; part shade or full sun.
Hardiness RHS H6, USDA 4a-8b.
Season of interest Late summer to autumn.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.





WITH TP TOYS' INNOVATIVE TRAMPOLINE, TIME SPENT IN THE GARDEN WITH THE GRANDCHILDREN CAN REACH NEW HEIGHTS OF FUN!

JUMP for JOY

With their continued sense of adventure and love of the great outdoors, today's grandparents have been hailed as the key to getting youngsters out into the garden. According to the National Trust*, more than 90 per cent of us love spending playtime outside with our grandchildren. And now, thanks to the British designers at TP Toys, there's a new way to get kids away from their screens and into the garden for even longer.

The TP Infinity Leap Trampoline is the world's very first two-level trampoline for an even greater challenge and double the delight. The seamless trampoline bed consists of two horizontal jump zones for a more exciting experience and a joining ramp on a bungee spring system that delivers an incredible lift, epic bounce and hours of extra fun.

Suitable for children aged six and over, it's one of the safest trampolines on the market. The highest quality PVC foam pads protect springs for longer, while the robust, galvanised steel powder-coated frame has a wider diameter than a traditional trampoline, making it stronger and more stable.

Designed in the UK, it features soft nylon safety nets. Nylon doesn't crease, is much stronger and has better UV protection - offering a premium look with all the benefits of increased safety and durability.

The aesthetically pleasing teardrop-shaped design won't be an eyesore in the garden, and the clever YOYO system means the enclosure can be put up, taken down and folded away by one adult in just seconds. So after the children have enjoyed hours of bouncing fun, the trampoline can be safely stowed away to avoid damage in winter, ensuring it stays in top condition for years to come.

READY FOR DOUBLE THE FUN?
Buy the TP Infinity Leap Trampoline now at **tptoys.com**. Also available from John Lewis, Argos and other leading stores across the UK

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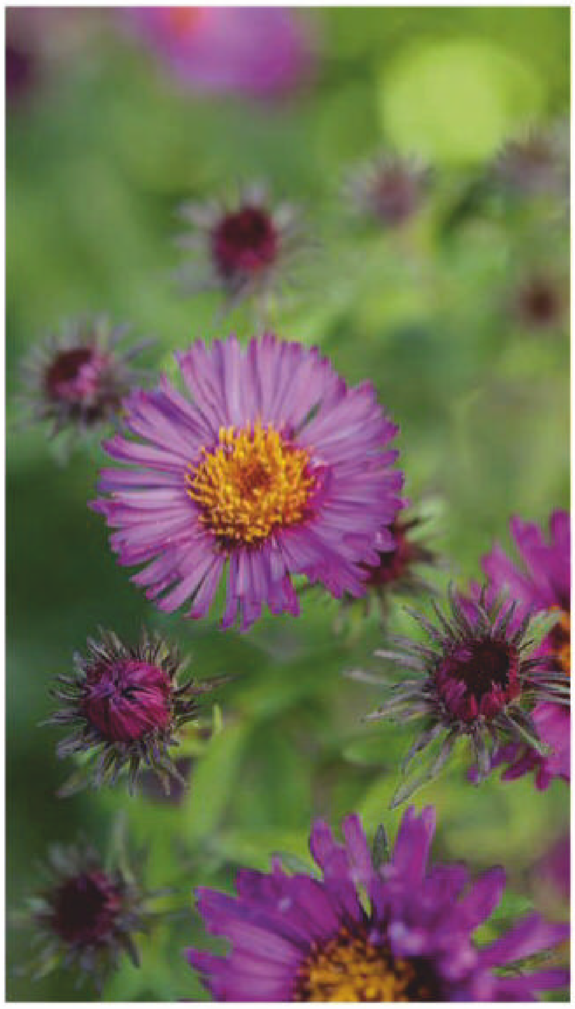
*The National Trust commissioned independent market research company, Fly Research, to survey 1,000 British adults aged 18+, between 26-29 June 2017.



SYMPHYOTRICHUM NOVAE-ANGLIAE 'RUBINSCHATZ'

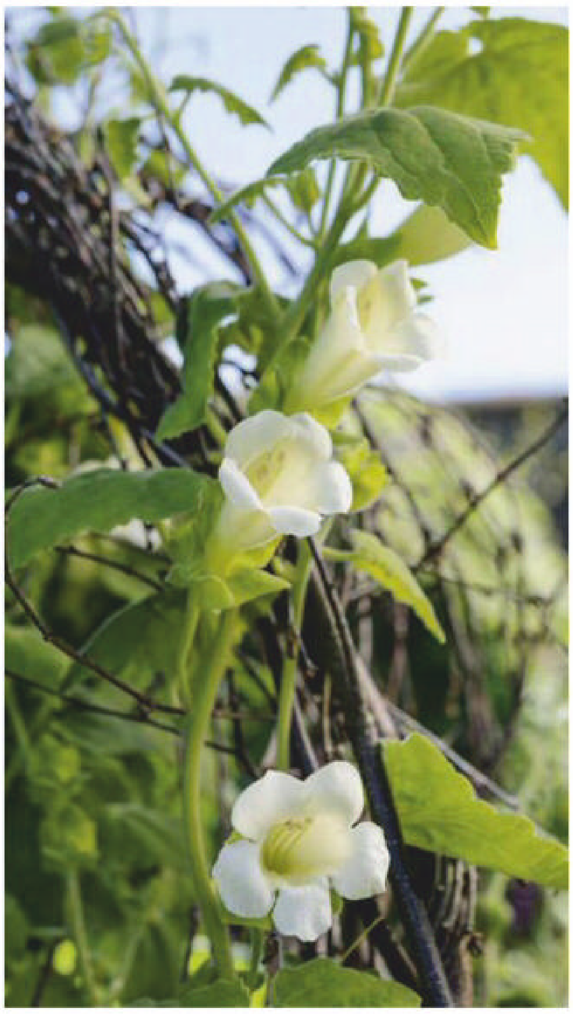
New England asters have a robust nature that I find greatly appealing and admirable. They generally suffer very little from powdery mildew that can affect other asters and produce a reliable show of flowers each year. 'Rubinschatz' requires little fuss and attention, I fell in love with the rich, rosy, claret-coloured flowers, which are most unusual and attractive. Divide every few years to maintain vigour and if cutting, treat the end of the stems with hot water to improve water uptake.

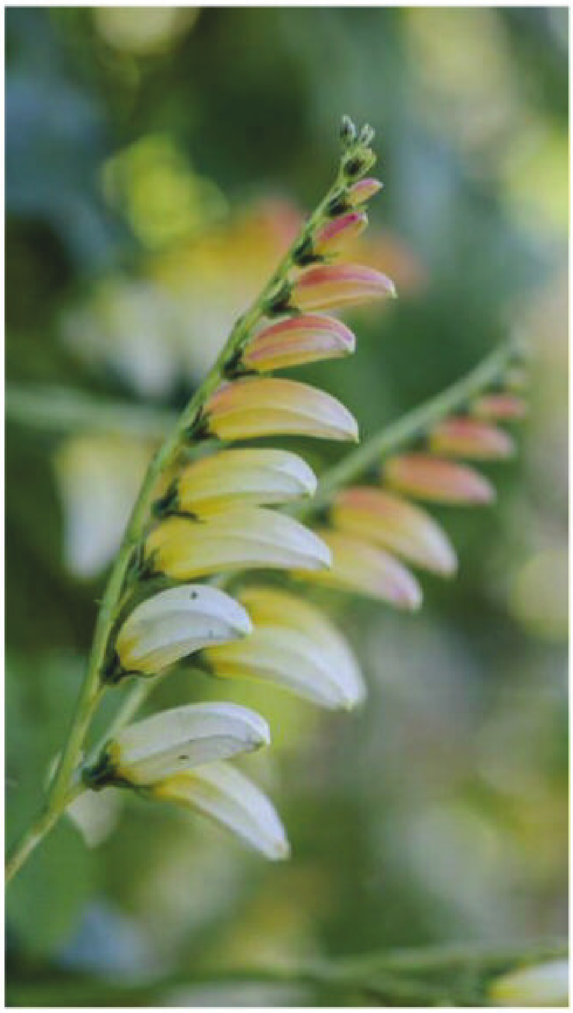
Height 1.5-2.5m.
Origin Garden origin (species from Eastern North America).
Conditions Moist but well-drained soil; full sun or part shade.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.
Season of interest August – September.

LOPHOSPERMUM ERUBESCENS 'BRIDAL BOUQUET'

By September, some garden plants are starting to show signs of fatigue after a long summer. *Lophospermum*, on the other hand, builds as the summer progresses and comes into its own in late summer. Its unusual, pure-white flowers drip from the twining stems and persist until first frosts. It's happy in a container, where you can manage the feeding regime more closely, and a fortnightly tomato feed is of great benefit for colour.

Height 2.5-4m.
Origin Garden origin (species from Mexico).
Conditions Moist, fertile, free-draining soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H2, USDA 9a-10b.
Season of interest Late summer until the frosts.





IPOMOEA LOBATA 'CITRINA'

Affectionately known as the Spanish flag, this annual climber is easy to grow and gives beds and borders a much-needed boost of colour at this time of year. Ipomoeas have flame-like flowers that cover twining stems from midsummer, and this cultivar has more subtle, pale-lemon flowers, compared to the species. Like most annual climbers, ipomoeas dislike the cold, so don't plant out until the warmth of June is fully felt and harvest the ripened seed for next year as the frosts loom.

Height 4-8m.
Origin Species from Mexico and Brazil.
Conditions Reasonable garden soil with good moisture retention; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H1C, USDA 11a-12.
Season of interest Midsummer until the first frosts.

PLACES TO VISIT

Recommended places to see seasonal plants at their best

I'm always blown away by the colour combinations and the creativity that Sarah Raven and her head gardener Josie Lewis conjure up at **Perch Hill Farm**. September sees a riot of summer colour with the dahlia beds taking centre stage. I get inspiration from the cutting garden and container displays; enjoying the bold use of colour and texture with their signature flair and elegance. Look out for new plant introductions that are constantly being trialled in the borders. Open 14 and 20 September. Willingford Lane, Brightling, Burwash, Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5HP. Tel 01424 838005, sarahraven.com

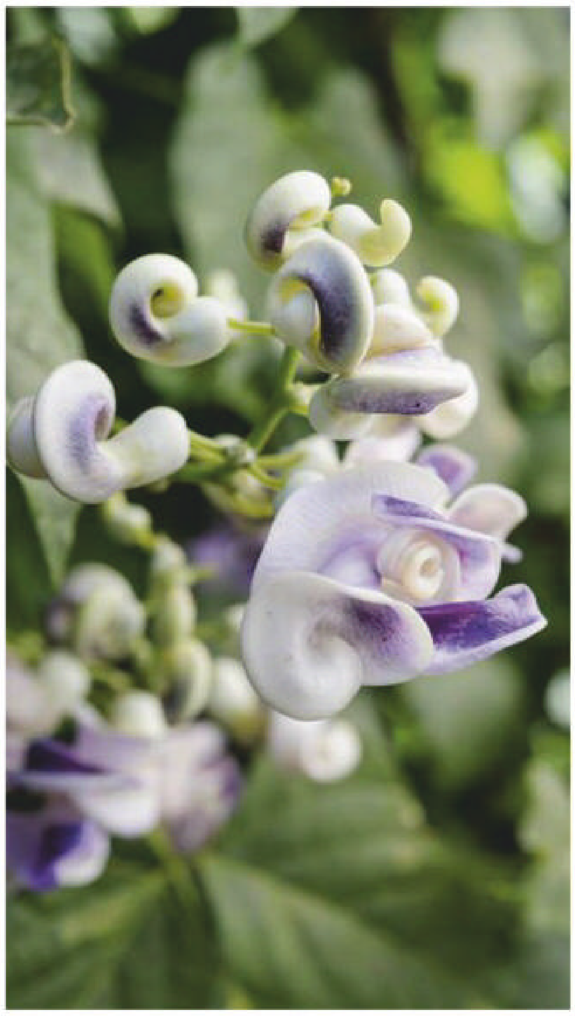
Head gardener Steve Edney of **The Salutation Hotel** is making quite a splash in the world of flower shows as he pushes boundaries and provokes conversations with his innovative displays. If you visited the RHS Chelsea Flower Show earlier this year, you may remember his display of seedheads, that served as a reminder not only of the beauty seedheads bring to a winter garden, but also of how beneficial they are to wildlife, and asked the question should we be so tidy? The garden at The Salutation sits around a Lutyens-designed house in the stunning location of Sandwich in Kent that is now a boutique hotel. Steve has a passion for dahlias, particularly the dark-leaved cultivars, and I love how his colourful and exotic planting envelops the building with its iconic Lutyens style and

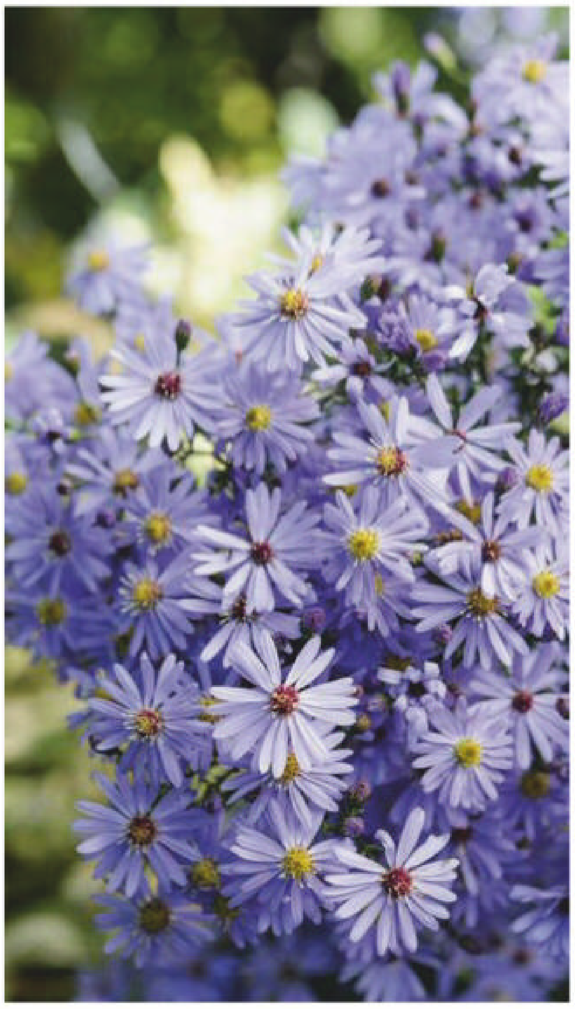
▷

COCHLIASANTHUS CARACALLA

Although I grow this vine each year, from seed, it can be perennial if given a little protection from frosts. Often sold under its previous name of *Vigna caracalla* it is commonly known as the corkscrew vine on account of its exquisite flowers that are tightly coiled like a corkscrew. Their emergence at the end of the summer always causes great excitement. You can successfully grow it in a container or in a conservatory or in a border, provided you apply a potash-based liquid feed throughout the growing period to encourage a strong flowering.

Height 3m.
Origin Tropical South America.
Conditions Moist, free-draining soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H2, USDA 10b-12.
Season of interest July – October.





SYMPHYOTRICHUM 'LITTLE CARLOW'

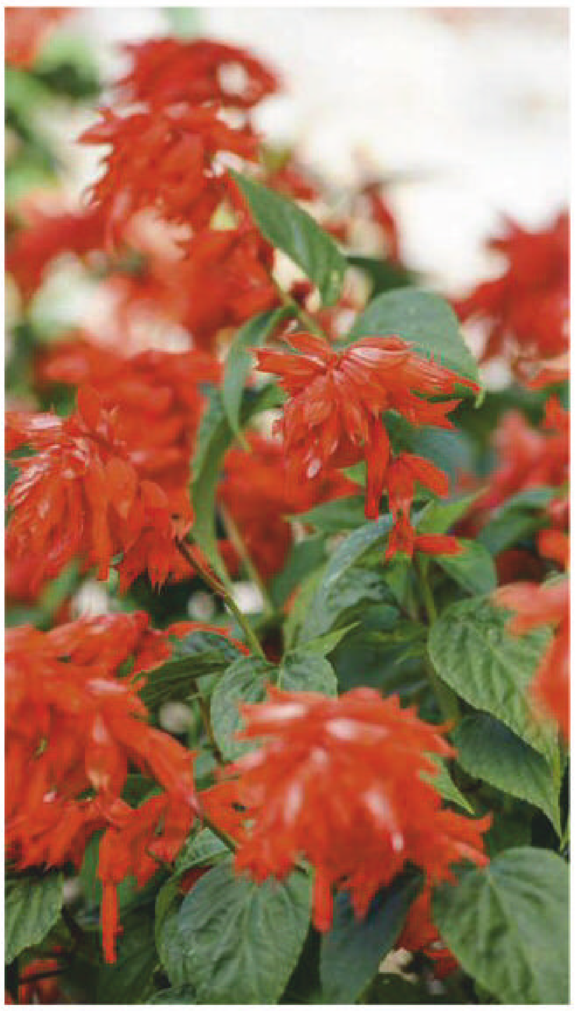
Some *Symphyotrichum* can be difficult to harmonise with other perennials and shrubs in naturalistic plantings but this much-admired cultivar, with its sprays of soft-blue flowers that appear in abundance in late summer, provides an elegant charm in a number of garden situations, making it one of my favourite plants. I'd recommend a little birch or hazel to support the plant when it's in full bloom as the sheer weight of the flowers can overwhelm the wiry stems. AGM.

Height 50cm-1m.
Origin Garden origin (species from North America).
Conditions Moist, fertile, free-draining soil; full sun or partial shade.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 3a-8b.
Season of interest August – September.

SALVIA SPLENDENS 'YVONNE'S GIANT'

Salvia splendens has been a bedding plant staple for many years, often surrounding manicured gardens in parks – but don't let that deter you from using 'Yvonne's Giant' in more contemporary plantings. It is easy to grow as an annual from seed offering non-stop, bright-red flowers from June to first frosts, at a height that works incredibly well with perennials, such as rudbeckias and sedums. If you take cuttings in midsummer you will have more established plants ready to plant out once all risk of frosts has passed, and so be able to achieve a greater height in a shorter period of time.

Height 1.5m.
Origin Garden origin (species from Brazil).
Conditions Fertile soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H3, USDA 11a-12.
Season of interest June until first frosts.



MANY THANKS TO PARHAM HOUSE & GARDENS (PARHAMINSUSSEX.CO.UK) IN WEST SUSSEX WHERE THESE IMAGES WERE TAKEN.

▷ features. The Salutation, Knightrider Street, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9EW. Tel 01304 619919, the-salutation.com

Sussex Prairie Garden in West Sussex has become something of a pilgrimage for those of us who enjoy prairie-style planting at its best. Over the past ten years its owners Paul and Pauline McBride have created one of Britain's largest prairie gardens in the stunning West Sussex countryside. Surrounded by mature oak trees, the garden is made up of large borders planted in a naturalistic style, and your eye is drawn across these mass drifts of herbaceous perennials and grasses to the borrowed landscape beyond. This month the garden holds its Unusual Plant and Garden Fair on 1 September, which always attracts an eclectic mix of specialist nursery men and women. Morlands Farm, Wheatsheaf Road, Henfield, West Sussex BN5 9AT. Tel 01273 495902, sussexprairies.co.uk

A highlight of any visit to the National Trust's **Coughton Court** is the vibrant summer borders. Set out as a traditional double herbaceous border, flanking a large, rectangular, mown lawn, these beds are a fiesta of late-summer colour and fun. The hot borders are reminiscent of the exotic and hot planting of Great Dixter in their use of cannas and dahlias but they are rooted in a palette of perennials and annuals that give a more traditional charm compared to those plantings that can blur the edges in terms of exotica. There is also a walled rose garden vegetable gardens, fruit orchards and plenty of stunning garden features to round off a visit to this garden, with areas of riotous and complex planting and calmer moments in between. Coughton Court, Alcester, Warwickshire B49 5JA. Tel 01789 400777, nationaltrust.org.uk

A FLORAL PARTY

Celebrate Leeds Castle's 900th anniversary at the beautiful Festival of Flowers

Said to be the loveliest castle in the world, Leeds Castle in Kent is truly a sight to behold. The majestic fortress has a rich history, from its beginnings as a Norman stronghold to its more recent purpose as a retreat for the 20th century's influential and famous. Surrounded by 500 acres of lush greenery, it's the perfect spot for a bit of floral fanfare.

From 14-19 September, the grounds will come alive with fragrant blooms to celebrate the castle's 900th anniversary. Not only can you marvel at the intricate and abundant flower arrangements spilling over on to the visitor route, you can also get to know the creative minds behind the designs.

Dutch floral artist Conny van der Westerlaken and leading Australian floral designer Matthew Landers are just some of the new names you can expect this year, along with favourites from previous years including Morgan Douglas Nuth from Old Oak Floral Designers in Ascot.

Though this is the popular Festival of Flowers' seventh year, the castle has been renowned for its grand flower displays since 1901. The tradition was kept alive by the elegant Lady Baillie in the 1930s, with the arrangements reflecting the glitz and glamour of the era.

So, head along for this year's event and discover more about Leeds Castle's fascinating past – surrounded by gorgeous blooms.

SAVE THE DATE

- Leeds Castle's Festival of Flowers will take place **14-19 September**
- Family admission tickets cost £74 for 1 adult and up to 5 children or 2 adults and up to 4 children. Tickets are also available to purchase separately. You can book yours at **leeds-castle.com/Flowers**

Want to win a free ticket for Leeds Castle's Festival of Flowers? Visit **leeds-castle.com/competition/gardens**

LEEDS CASTLE
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900
YEARS
1119 - 2019

The Outsider

Horticulturist Hannah Gardner heads to the Cumbrian-County Durham borders to one of England's largest National Nature Reserves in search of the golden globeflowers of early summer

WORDS HANNAH GARDNER ILLUSTRATION ALICE PATTULLO

In the narrowest reaches of northern England, around the headwaters of the River Tees there is a botanical hotspot of international importance for its arctic and alpine species. Upper Teesdale, in the North Pennines, lies on a high elevation band of limestone, the River Tees rising from springs high on Cross Fell (893m). Flowing through high elevation areas of peat, its water becomes translucent burnt umber as it tumbles over the dramatic rocky Cauldron Snout waterfall, passing through steep-banked valleys and eventually plunging 21m over the dark rock formations of High Force waterfall.

Geology heavily influences plant life, and in this region a lower band of limestone was intruded by hard igneous rock (dolerite) of the Great Whin Sill 300 million years ago creating a rare, coarse, crystalline material known as sugar limestone. This forms frequent outcrops as you navigate the upland fells and discover their considerable botanical treasure. The climate here is unforgiving, the chill and sense of desolate beauty exhilarating and the habitats diverse, from low-lying hay meadows, England's largest juniper wood, blanket bog, limestone grassland and upland heath.

Inspiration for the trip

This is the only site in England to see the Klein-blue blooms of spring gentian *Gentiana verna*.

When to go

The alpine species of the uplands flower in May and June but for the hay meadows and pastures visit during July.

Where to go

Widdybank Fell was a much-studied area prior to the creation of the controversial Cow Green Reservoir in 1966, and is now part of the 22-acre Moor House – Upper Teesdale National Nature Reserve. Teaming with life, the uncommon black grouse and many wading birds breed here during spring. Pollen archives extracted from the ancient peatlands confirm that some areas of limestone have remained open and unwooded since the retreat of the last ice age, the relict flora found here include the spring gentians and mountain everlasting (*Antennaria dioica*). An old, dam construction track has been repurposed as a nature trail, protecting this fragile habitat and enabling easy access on foot as far as Cauldron Snout. Spring gentian, false sedge and tufty blue moor grass (*Sesleria caerulea*) are abundant, growing near the purple-leaved alpine bartsia (*Bartsia alpina*) are mountain pansy (*Viola lutea*) and common dog violet. In some areas there's the thrilling, faint mauve haze of 6cm-tall *Primula farinosa*, an alpine beauty favouring damp places, among mosses and liverworts in the thinnest soils at the margins of the mineral-rich Red Sike stream.

Down river, the path between High Force and Low Force waterfalls, and on to Scoberry Bridge, passes through fantastical gnarly, dark juniper woodland. Dry-stone walls (created from clearance stones gathered from the fields) and white-painted farmsteads carve up the surrounding lowlands. The rocky river meanders on through pastures, flecked first by primroses, then lady's mantle, bluebells and fragile stands of early purple orchid (*Orchis mascula*). The golden yellow flowers of shrubby cinquefoil *Potentilla fruticosa* (or *Dasiphora fruticosa*) draw attention to a sub-arctic shrub rarely found elsewhere in the UK. Elegant and lustrous drifts of *Trollius europaeus* share the damp meadows with melancholy thistle (*Cirsium heterophyllum*), named not for its appearance, which is quite jaunty, but because people ate it as a cure for melancholia, and the airy blue pompoms of devil's bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*). On the bank an occasional clump of fragrant sweet cicely and wood cranesbill (*Geranium sylvaticum*) spilling from beneath the bird cherry, birch and rowan trees.

Plant to grow at home

Trollius europaeus is a familiar hardy garden perennial, but is perhaps less well known as a native wildflower of the British Isles. Globeflowers have been popular in cultivation since the 16th century but are now rarely seen in our threatened and diminishing wild habitats. Native to central and northern Europe this species is confined to cool, damp regions that offer some shelter; they were charming and plentiful along the banks of the River Tees.

In early summer, cool lemon-yellow incurved flowers are held on long, slender stems, gracefully hovering above attractive divided leaves. Like buttercups they are a member of the Ranunculaceae family, tolerant of a range of soil pH but resentful of a hot, dry situations, they require rich, moist and cool conditions. Thriving in heavy, poorly drained, clay soils and partial shade, an open site and full sun is fine, as long as the roots remain moist. Their root systems are extensive so globeflowers are best planted in autumn, allowing them to establish gradually during the cool, moist months. Planted en masse they are spectacular, associating very well with ferns, foxgloves *Primula* species and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). They will often repeat flower if the spent heads are cut back, and are resistant to rabbits and deer but attractive to butterflies.

Guides and maps

Walking in the North Pennines: 50 Walks in England's Remotest Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty by Paddy Dillon (Cicerone Press, 2016).
Wild Flowers of Britain and Ireland by Marjorie Blamey, Richard Fitter and Alastair Fitter (Bloomsbury Natural History, 2013).
OS Explorer OL31 or OS Landrangers 91/ 92.

Where to stay

Gentian House
5 Hill Terrace, Middleton-in-Teesdale, County Durham DL12 0SL. Tel 01833 640832, gentianhouse.co.uk
A charming guest house conveniently located for many walking routes in the heart of the Teesdale Valley. There are good pubs and restaurants in the village.

Alston House Hotel
Townfoot, Alston, Cumbria CA9 3RN.
Tel 01434 382200, alstonhousehotel.co.uk
Alston House Hotel is a restaurant with luxurious rooms in the tranquil town of Alston, a short drive from Teesdale.

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GARDENING TALENT

Claire Ratinon

Claire works on a number of urban food growing projects in London, as well as giving talks and workshops to inspire us all to become organic food growers

PORTRAIT ANDREW MONTGOMERY

Earliest garden memory I am a horticultural latecomer as I only really discovered a passion for plants in my late twenties – but I did grow up in with a small garden in Surrey filled with flowers and shrubs that is still lovingly tended by my mother.

So why the late calling? Before shifting my focus towards plants, I worked in television production. After a chance encounter with a rooftop farm at Brooklyn Grange in New York City (I just happened to see a poster advertising an open day) and a couple of summers spent among the vegetables there, I decided to see whether I could change my life entirely and make it all about plants.

Horticultural heroes Leah Penniman of Soul Fire Farm in New York State is an amazing food grower and I am deeply inspired by the way in which her work upholds people of colour who are working with soil and plants, as well as advocating for a more sustainable and equitable food system.

Worthwhile tip for every gardener Accept that you have far less control than you think you do and work with nature, not against it – it's better to have some slugs and weeds and fewer lettuces than to use chemicals in your garden.

Most valuable training I've completed a traineeship with Growing Communities and a Level 2 Qualification at Organiclea, a workers' co-operative growing food on the edge of London – both invaluable. But I've learned by far the most from working alongside other gardeners and growers, asking lots of questions and being curious about how other plant enthusiasts take to their growing spaces.

Dream plant destination Mauritius. Not just because it's in my blood but because all the plants that I try desperately to keep alive in my one-bedroom flat in east London can be found thriving joyfully outside in the ideal tropical climate there.

One easy thing to help us garden more sustainably Make your own fertilisers. By soaking nettle or comfrey in water for a few weeks, you can make you own potent (and pungent!) fertiliser tea – so no need to waste your money buying the chemical kind.

Favourite gardening books I go back to Joy Larkcom's *Grow Your Own Vegetables* all the time – it is the bible on growing edible plants. I'm also a fan of Charles Dowding and his focus on developing healthy soil. His books and online content are an excellent resource.

Contact claireratinon.com or @claireratinon on Instagram.

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70 BEAUTIFUL PLANTS for late summer
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BEYOND THE BRIGHTS choosing and growing elegant KNIPHOFIA

Settled status

Hidden away in a secluded Cotswold valley, an elegant, old stone house has been given a worthy setting and married to its landscape by garden designer Arabella Lennox-Boyd

WORDS **STEPHANIE DONALDSON** PHOTOGRAPHS **JASON INGRAM**

IN BRIEF

Name The Hermitage.
What Formal garden of a country house.
Where A wooded valley north of Bath.
Size 2 400 square metres
Soil Clay based and slightly alkaline (pH 74)
Climate North facing location with damp conditions; frosts can be hard and long lasting
Hardiness zone USDA 9

In the North Garden, two lawns are separated by yew bastions interplanted with *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Morning Light', *Verbena bonariensis* and *Knautia macedonica*, with standard wisterias marking the point where the far lawn drops away into the valley.

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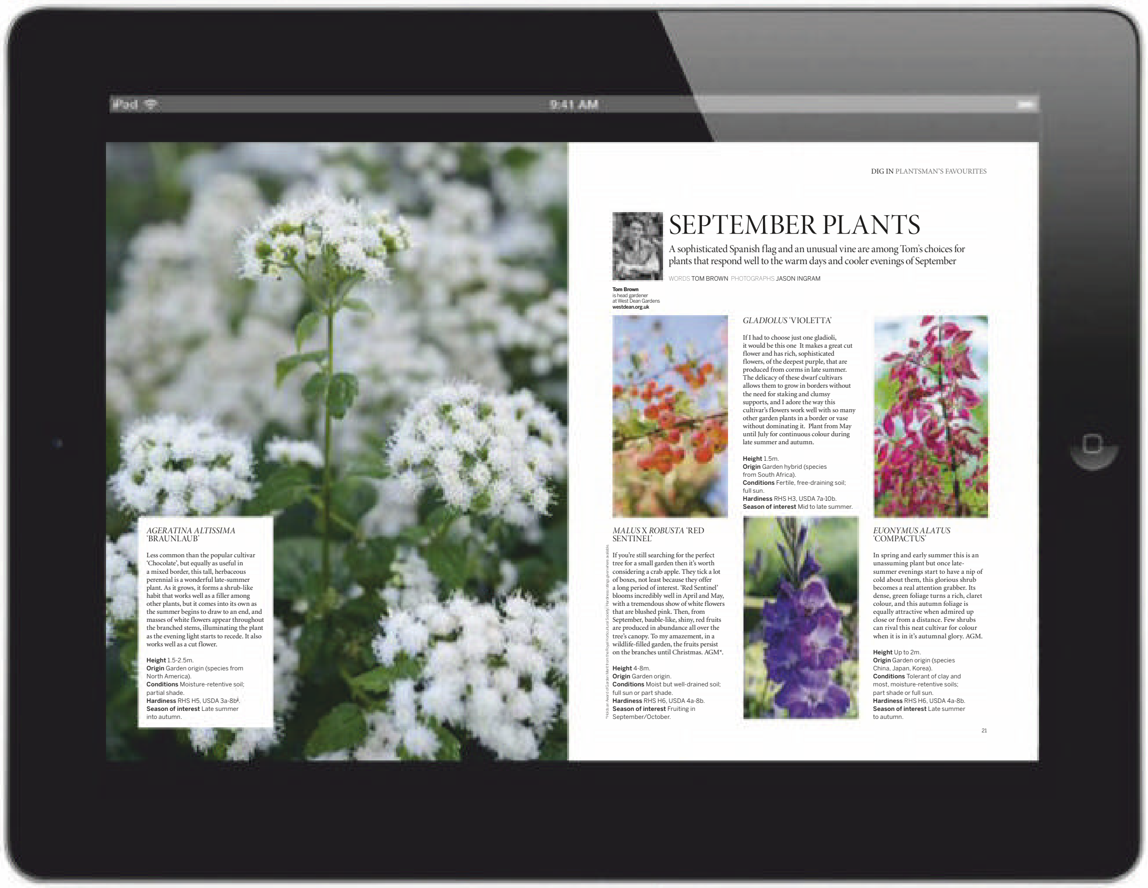

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Height 1.5-2.5m.
Origin Garden origin (species from North America).
Conditions Moisture-retentive soil; partial shade.
Hardiness RHS H5, USDA 3a-8b.
Season of interest Late summer into autumn.

DIG IN PLANTSMAN'S FAVOURITES

SEPTEMBER PLANTS

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westdean.org.uk

GLADIOLUS 'VIOLETTA'

If I had to choose just one gladioli, it would be this one It makes a great cut flower and has rich, sophisticated flowers, of the deepest purple, that are produced from corms in late summer. The delicacy of these dwarf cultivars allows them to grow in borders without the need for staking and clumsy supports, and I adore the way this cultivar's flowers work well with so many other garden plants in a border or vase without dominating it. Plant from May until July for continuous colour during late summer and autumn.

Height 1.5m.
Origin Garden hybrid (species from South Africa).
Conditions Fertile, free-draining soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H3, USDA 7a-10b.
Season of interest Mid to late summer.

MALUS X ROBUSTA 'RED SENTINEL'

If you're still searching for the perfect tree for a small garden then it's worth considering a crab apple. They tick a lot of boxes, not least because they offer a long period of interest. 'Red Sentinel' blooms incredibly well in April and May, with a tremendous show of white flowers that are blushed pink. Then, from September, bauble-like, shiny, red fruits are produced in abundance all over the tree's canopy. To my amazement, in a wildlife-filled garden, the fruits persist on the branches until Christmas. AGM*.

Height 4-8m.
Origin Garden origin.
Conditions Moist but well-drained soil; full sun or part shade.
Hardiness RHS H6, USDA 4a-8b.
Season of interest Fruiting in September/October.

EUONYMUS ALATUS 'COMPACTUS'

In spring and early summer this is an unassuming plant but once late-summer evenings start to have a nip of cold about them, this glorious shrub becomes a real attention grabber. Its dense, green foliage turns a rich, claret colour, and this autumn foliage is equally attractive when admired up close or from a distance. Few shrubs can rival this neat cultivar for colour when it is in it's autumnal glory. AGM.

Height Up to 2m.
Origin Garden origin (species China, Japan, Korea).
Conditions Tolerant of clay and most, moisture-retentive soils; part shade or full sun.
Hardiness RHS H6, USDA 4a-8b.
Season of interest Late summer to autumn.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. Hardiness ratings given where available.

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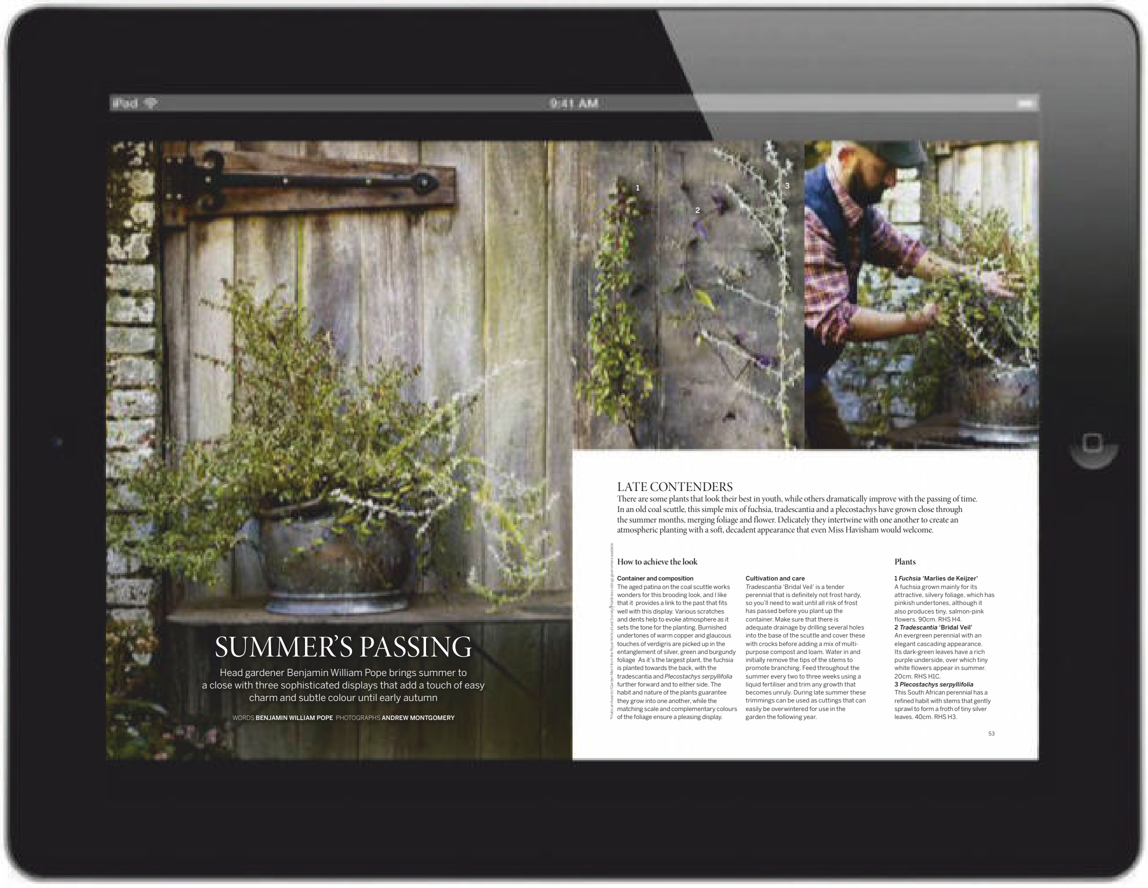

SUMMER'S PASSING

Head gardener Benjamin William Pope brings summer to a close with three sophisticated displays that add a touch of easy charm and subtle colour until early autumn

WORDS **BENJAMIN WILLIAM POPE** PHOTOGRAPHS **ANDREW MONTGOMERY**

LATE CONTENDERS

There are some plants that look their best in youth, while others dramatically improve with the passing of time. In an old coal scuttle, this simple mix of fuchsia, tradescantia and a plecostachys have grown close through the summer months, merging foliage and flower. Delicately they intertwine with one another to create an atmospheric planting with a soft, decadent appearance that even Miss Havisham would welcome.

How to achieve the look

Container and composition
The aged patina on the coal scuttle works wonders for this brooding look, and I like that it provides a link to the past that fits well with this display. Various scratches and dents help to evoke atmosphere as it sets the tone for the planting. Burnished undertones of warm copper and glaucous touches of verdigris are picked up in the entanglement of silver, green and burgundy foliage As it's the largest plant, the fuchsia is planted towards the back, with the tradescantia and *Plecostachys serpyllifolia* further forward and to either side. The habit and nature of the plants guarantee they grow into one another, while the matching scale and complementary colours of the foliage ensure a pleasing display.

Cultivation and care
Tradescantia 'Bridal Veil' is a tender perennial that is definitely not frost hardy, so you'll need to wait until all risk of frost has passed before you plant up the container. Make sure that there is adequate drainage by drilling several holes into the base of the scuttle and cover these with crocks before adding a mix of multi-purpose compost and loam. Water in and initially remove the tips of the stems to promote branching. Feed throughout the summer every two to three weeks using a liquid fertiliser and trim any growth that becomes unruly. During late summer these trimmings can be used as cuttings that can easily be overwintered for use in the garden the following year.

Plants

1 *Fuchsia* 'Marlies de Keijzer'
A fuchsia grown mainly for its attractive, silvery foliage, which has pinkish undertones, although it also produces tiny, salmon-pink flowers. 90cm. RHS H4.
2 *Tradescantia* 'Bridal Veil'
An evergreen perennial with an elegant cascading appearance. Its dark-green leaves have a rich purple underside, over which tiny white flowers appear in summer. 20cm. RHS H1C.
3 *Plecostachys serpyllifolia*
This South African perennial has a refined habit with stems that gently sprawl to form a froth of tiny silver leaves. 40cm. RHS H3.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. Hardiness ratings given where available.

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A must-have read for passionate gardeners, *Gardens Illustrated* magazine provides a unique insight into the world's most beautiful gardens, expert advice and planting ideas.

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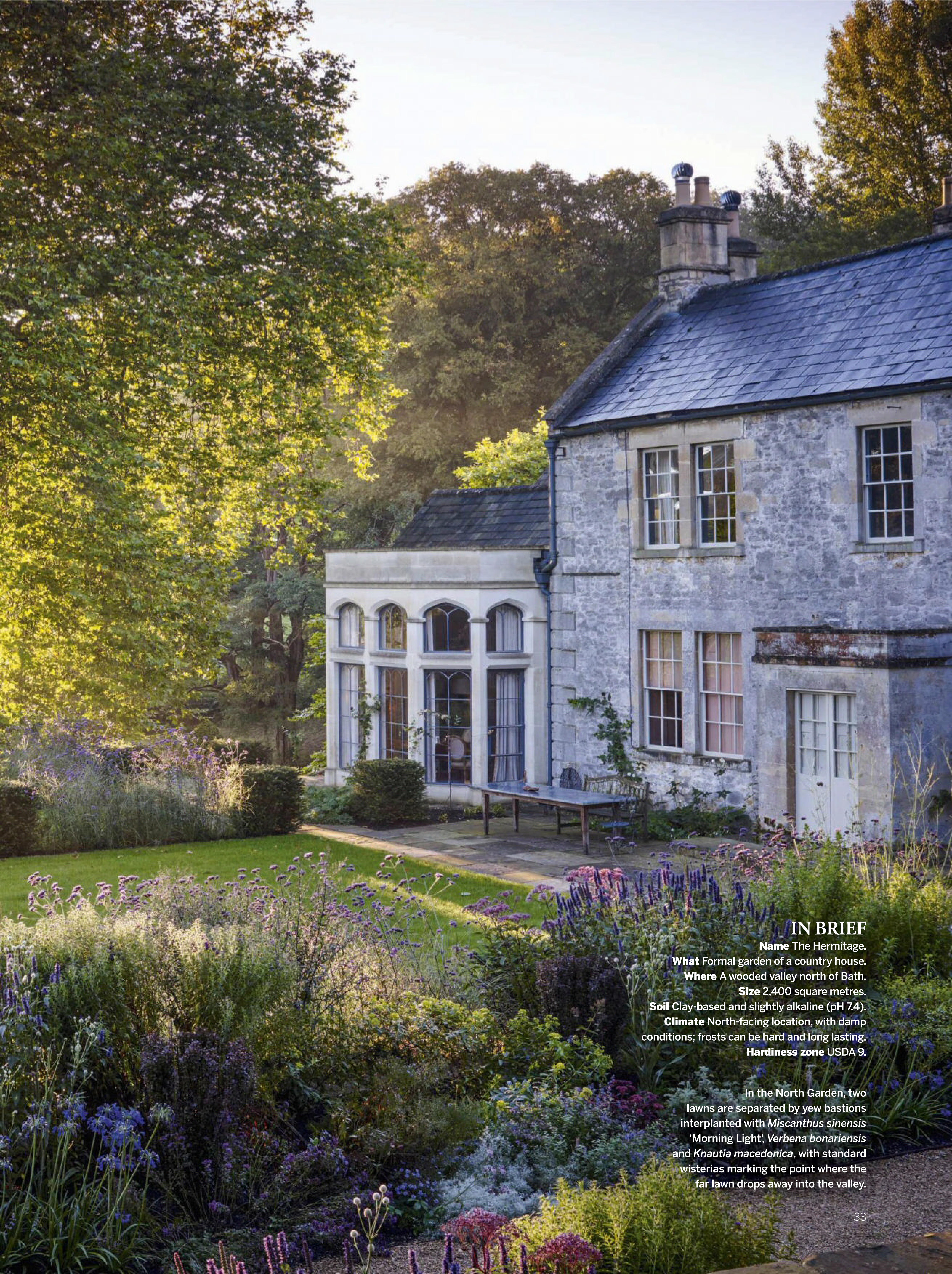
Settled status

Hidden away in a secluded Cotswold valley, an elegant, old stone house has been given a worthy setting and married to its landscape by garden designer Arabella Lennox-Boyd

WORDS **STEPHANIE DONALDSON** PHOTOGRAPHS **JASON INGRAM**

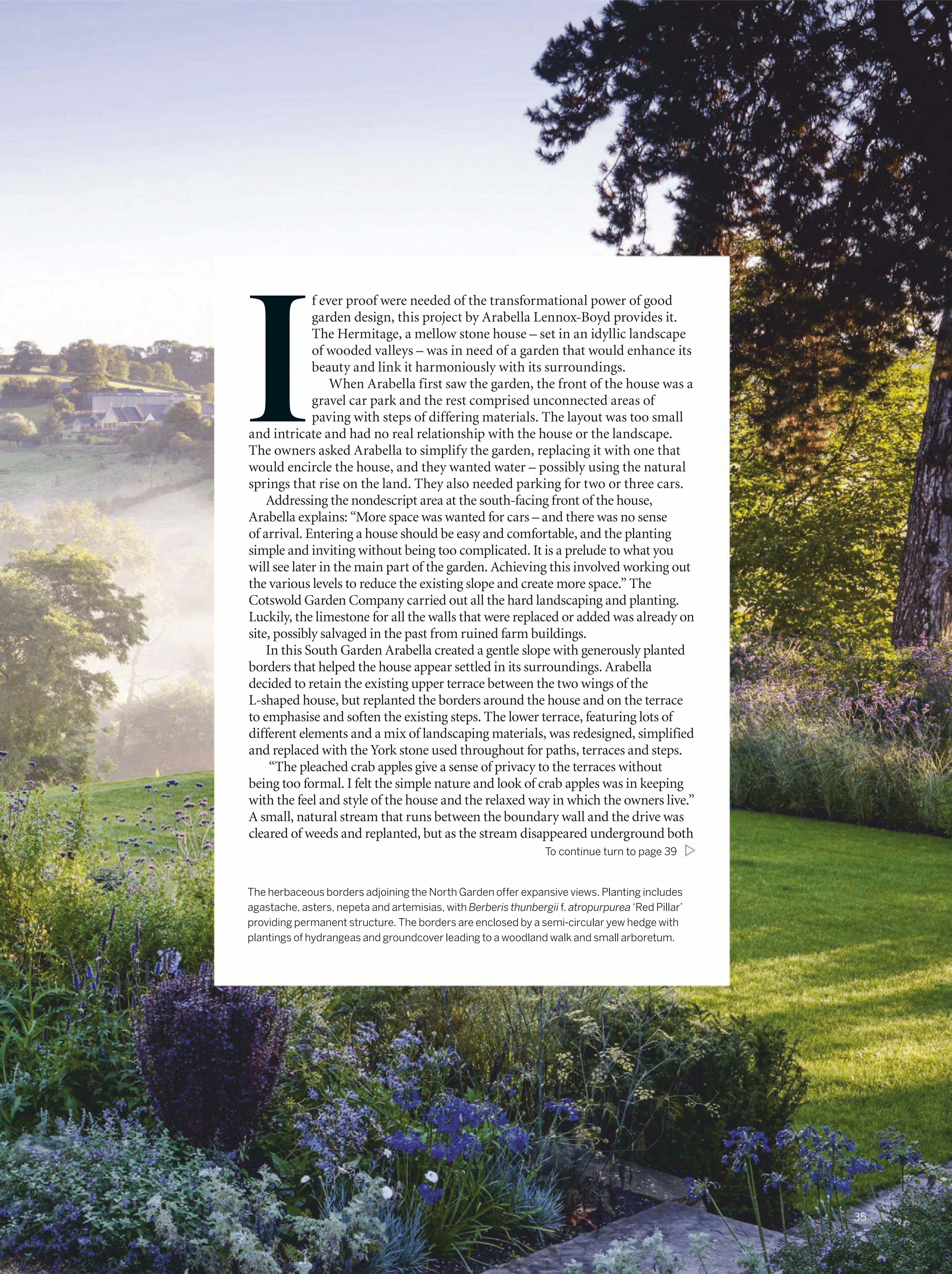


IN BRIEF

Name The Hermitage.
What Formal garden of a country house.
Where A wooded valley north of Bath.
Size 2,400 square metres.
Soil Clay-based and slightly alkaline (pH 7.4).
Climate North-facing location, with damp conditions; frosts can be hard and long lasting.
Hardiness zone USDA 9.

In the North Garden, two lawns are separated by yew bastions interplanted with *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Morning Light', *Verbena bonariensis* and *Knautia macedonica*, with standard wisterias marking the point where the far lawn drops away into the valley.

Planting in the herbaceous borders is in a largely blue palette that includes agastache, asters and agapanthus



If ever proof were needed of the transformational power of good garden design, this project by Arabella Lennox-Boyd provides it. The Hermitage, a mellow stone house – set in an idyllic landscape of wooded valleys – was in need of a garden that would enhance its beauty and link it harmoniously with its surroundings.

When Arabella first saw the garden, the front of the house was a gravel car park and the rest comprised unconnected areas of paving with steps of differing materials. The layout was too small and intricate and had no real relationship with the house or the landscape. The owners asked Arabella to simplify the garden, replacing it with one that would encircle the house, and they wanted water – possibly using the natural springs that rise on the land. They also needed parking for two or three cars.

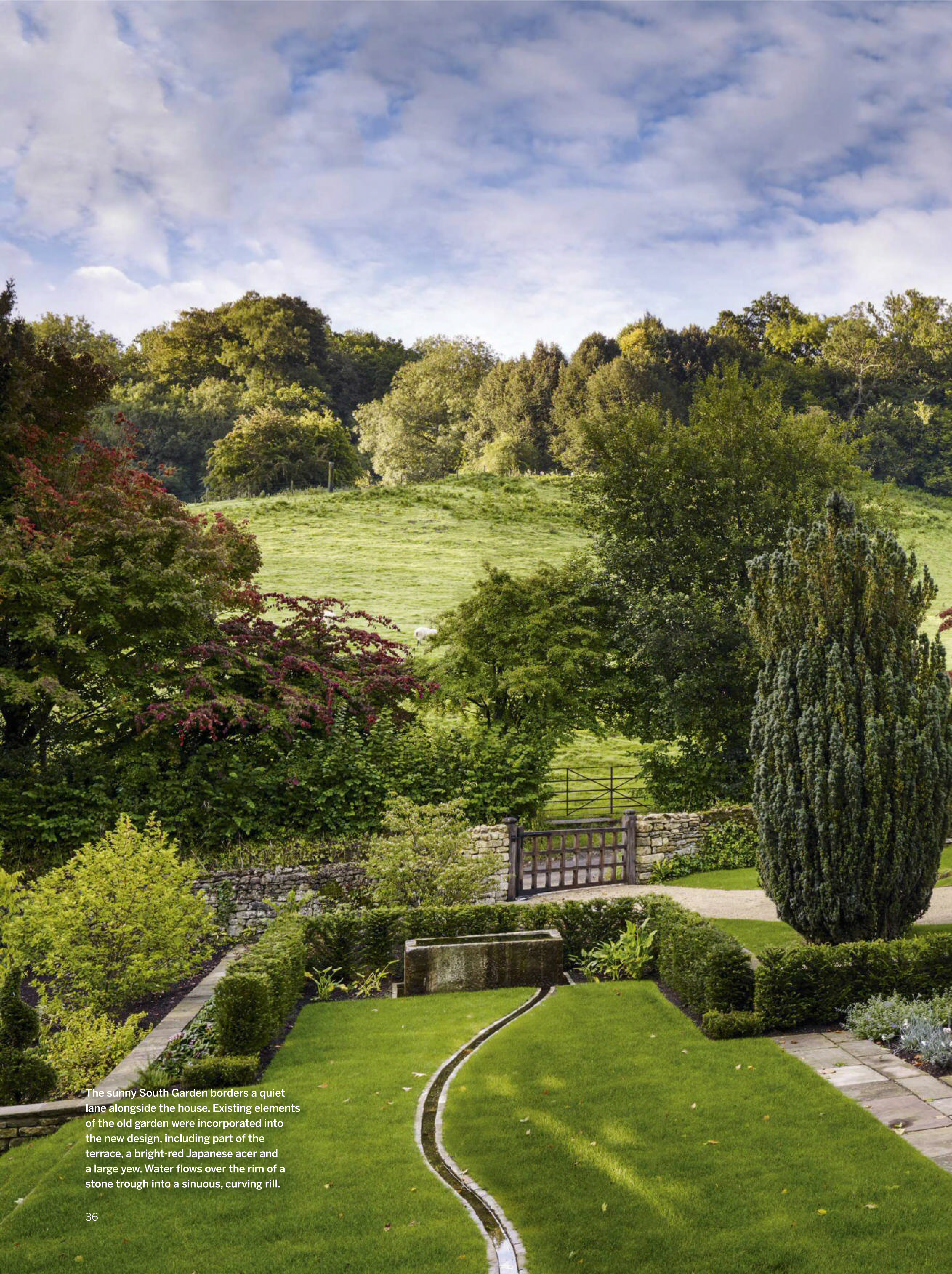
Addressing the nondescript area at the south-facing front of the house, Arabella explains: "More space was wanted for cars – and there was no sense of arrival. Entering a house should be easy and comfortable, and the planting simple and inviting without being too complicated. It is a prelude to what you will see later in the main part of the garden. Achieving this involved working out the various levels to reduce the existing slope and create more space." The Cotswold Garden Company carried out all the hard landscaping and planting. Luckily, the limestone for all the walls that were replaced or added was already on site, possibly salvaged in the past from ruined farm buildings.

In this South Garden Arabella created a gentle slope with generously planted borders that helped the house appear settled in its surroundings. Arabella decided to retain the existing upper terrace between the two wings of the L-shaped house, but replanted the borders around the house and on the terrace to emphasise and soften the existing steps. The lower terrace, featuring lots of different elements and a mix of landscaping materials, was redesigned, simplified and replaced with the York stone used throughout for paths, terraces and steps.

"The pleached crab apples give a sense of privacy to the terraces without being too formal. I felt the simple nature and look of crab apples was in keeping with the feel and style of the house and the relaxed way in which the owners live." A small, natural stream that runs between the boundary wall and the drive was cleared of weeds and replanted, but as the stream disappeared underground both

To continue turn to page 39 ▷

The herbaceous borders adjoining the North Garden offer expansive views. Planting includes agastache, asters, nepeta and artemisias, with *Berberis thunbergii* f. *atropurpurea* 'Red Pillar' providing permanent structure. The borders are enclosed by a semi-circular yew hedge with plantings of hydrangeas and groundcover leading to a woodland walk and small arboretum.



The sunny South Garden borders a quiet lane alongside the house. Existing elements of the old garden were incorporated into the new design, including part of the terrace, a bright-red Japanese acer and a large yew. Water flows over the rim of a stone trough into a sinuous, curving rill.

Entering a house should be easy and the planting inviting. It is a prelude to what you will see later in the garden

The simple nature and look of the crab apples is in keeping with the relaxed feel and style of the house

▷ the owners and Arabella felt it was a pity to lose the water so soon and wanted it to play a part in the garden. “The problem was that the flow of water was not constant so we devised a way of recycling it. Inspired by the rill at Rousham, I designed a sinuous, narrow rill that winds across the new lawn next to the lower terrace. It gives the appearance of being a continuation of the stream, but is actually fed by recirculating the water that overflows from the old stone trough.”

Turf steps link the lawn with the wider garden. “They are a useful device for moving from formal to less formal,” says Arabella, “but here they also open up the area to provide a full view of the magnificent plane tree. I wanted to celebrate the view of the tree by making it part of the garden.”

Stone steps on the east side of the house lead up to the main, north-facing, garden. One is drawn to a grass allée, bounded by tall, latticework hornbeam hedges and overhung by a fine Scots pine. The hedges ensure that the two main lawns are enclosed in such a way that the expansive view of the countryside to the north is the main attraction beyond the garden itself.

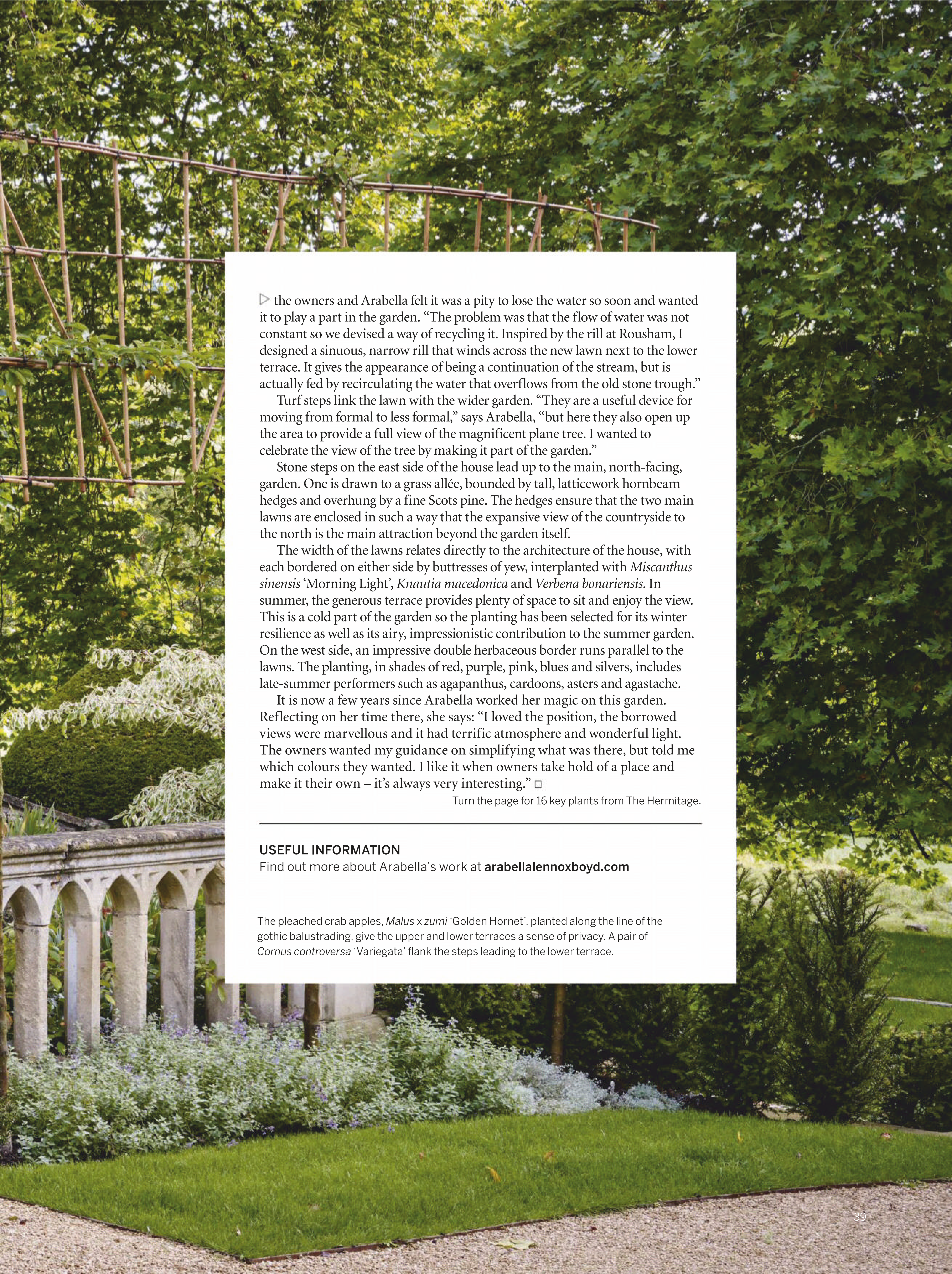
The width of the lawns relates directly to the architecture of the house, with each bordered on either side by buttresses of yew, interplanted with *Miscanthus sinensis* ‘Morning Light’, *Knautia macedonica* and *Verbena bonariensis*. In summer, the generous terrace provides plenty of space to sit and enjoy the view. This is a cold part of the garden so the planting has been selected for its winter resilience as well as its airy, impressionistic contribution to the summer garden. On the west side, an impressive double herbaceous border runs parallel to the lawns. The planting, in shades of red, purple, pink, blues and silvers, includes late-summer performers such as agapanthus, cardoons, asters and agastache.

It is now a few years since Arabella worked her magic on this garden. Reflecting on her time there, she says: “I loved the position, the borrowed views were marvellous and it had terrific atmosphere and wonderful light. The owners wanted my guidance on simplifying what was there, but told me which colours they wanted. I like it when owners take hold of a place and make it their own – it’s always very interesting.” □

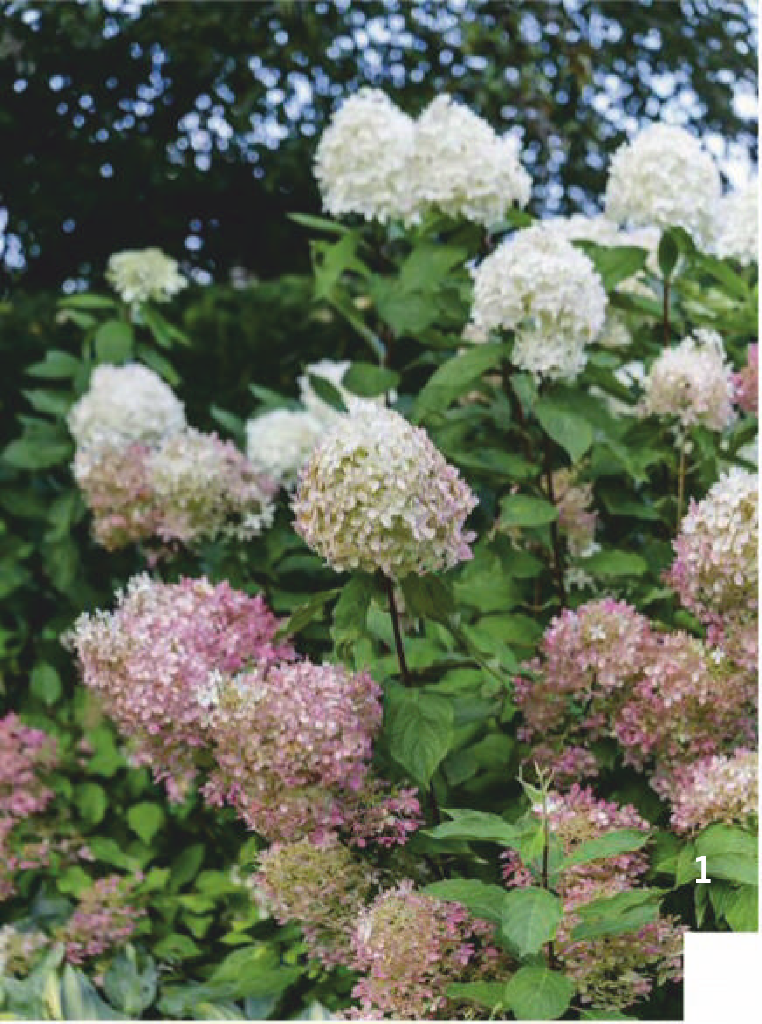
Turn the page for 16 key plants from The Hermitage.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Find out more about Arabella’s work at **arabellalennoxboyd.com**



The pleached crab apples, *Malus x zumi* ‘Golden Hornet’, planted along the line of the gothic balustrading, give the upper and lower terraces a sense of privacy. A pair of *Cornus controversa* ‘Variegata’ flank the steps leading to the lower terrace.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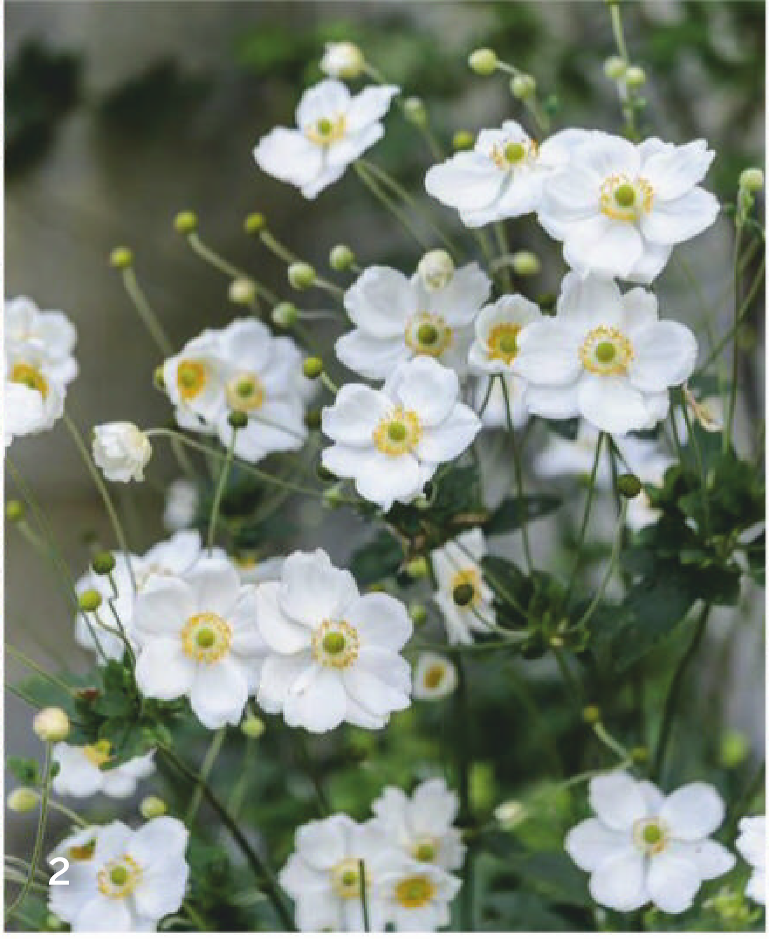
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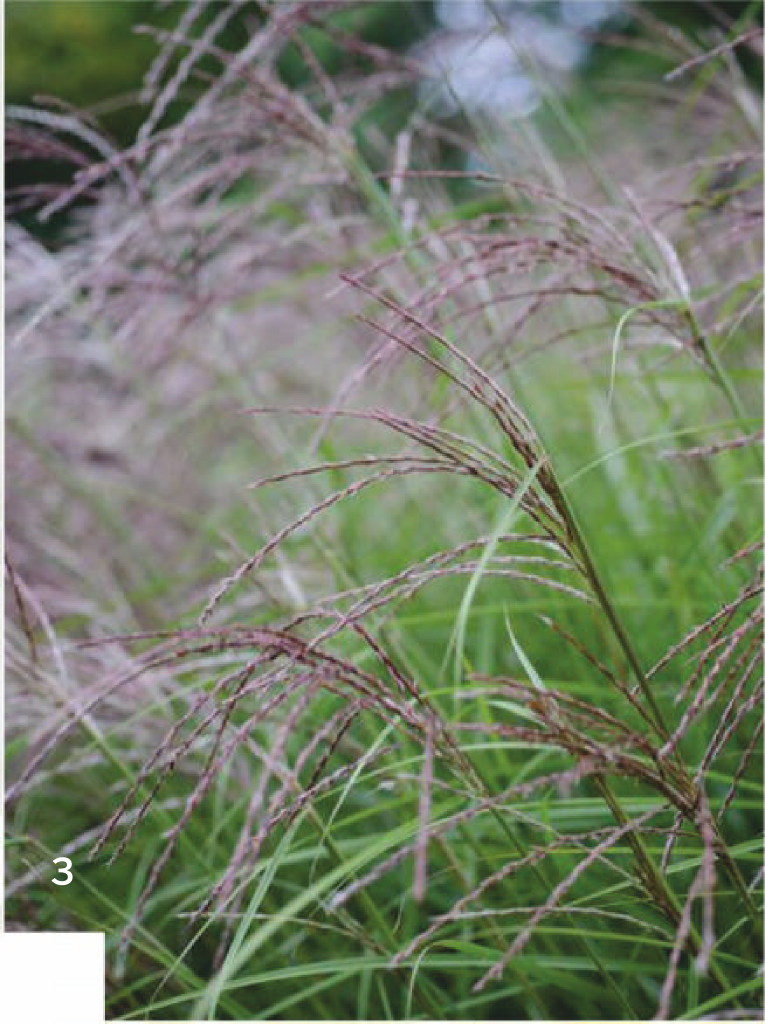
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16 KEY PLANTS

1 *Hydrangea paniculata*
Has large, showy, conical flowerheads carrying pinkish-white, sterile flowers among smaller, creamy-white, fertile flowers. 1-3m depending on pruning regime. RHS H5, USDA 3a-8b[†].

2 *Anemone* x *hybrida* 'Honorine Jobert'
An excellent plant for lighting up a dark corner with masses of single white flowers on tall, wiry stems. Best grown in partial shade, but tolerant of other positions. 1m. AGM[*]. RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.

3 *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Flamingo'
Strikingly elegant, deciduous grass with slightly pendant, dark-pink flower plumes in late summer and good autumn colour. 2m. AGM. RHS H6.

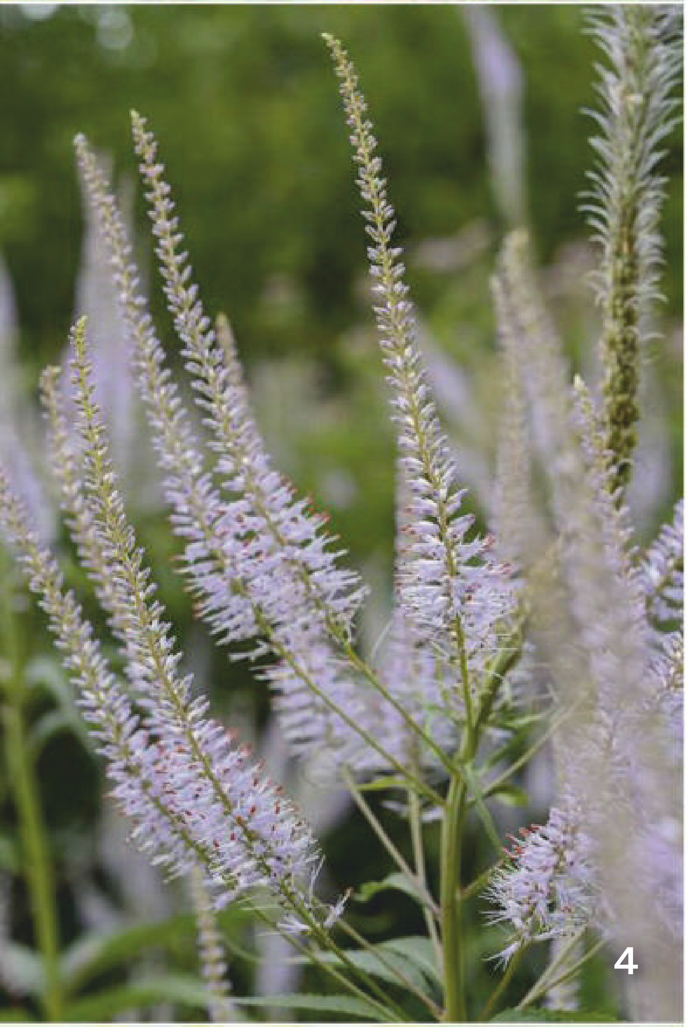
4 *Veronicastrum virginicum* 'Lavendelturm'
Slender spikes of pale-lavender flowers from July to September above whorls of deep-green leaves. 1.5m. AGM. RHS H7.

5 *Nepeta kubanica*
Clusters of large, dark flowers in dense spikes above glossy green leaves from late spring to autumn. 90cm. RHS H7.

6 *Rosa* 'Roseraie de l'Haÿ'
A vigorous, medium-sized shrub with fine, glossy, dark leaves that turn yellow in autumn; very fragrant, double, purplish-crimson flowers throughout summer and autumn. 2.5m. AGM. RHS H7.

7 *Geranium* 'Lilac Ice'
A sport of the popular *G.* Rozanne (='Gerwat') with lilac-pink flowers and softly mottled, yellow-green foliage; good for the front of a border or lining the edge of a path. 35cm. RHS H7.

8 *Nepeta racemosa* 'Walkers Low'
A long-flowering, violet-blue catmint that is excellent in the front of the border. If cut back after the first flush of flowers, it will continue flowering into autumn. 90cm. AGM. RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.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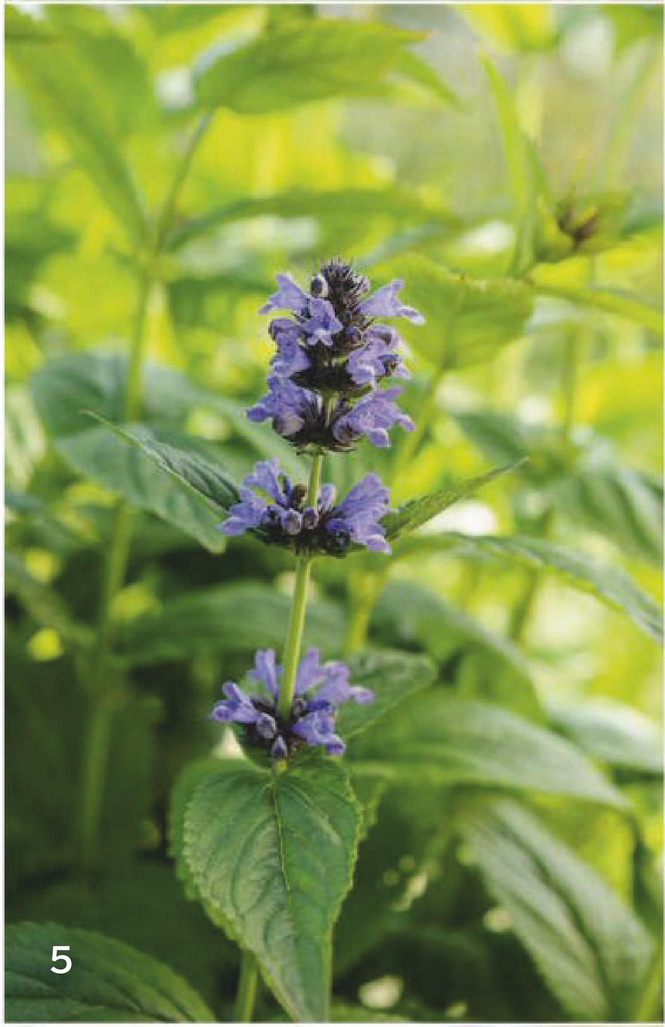
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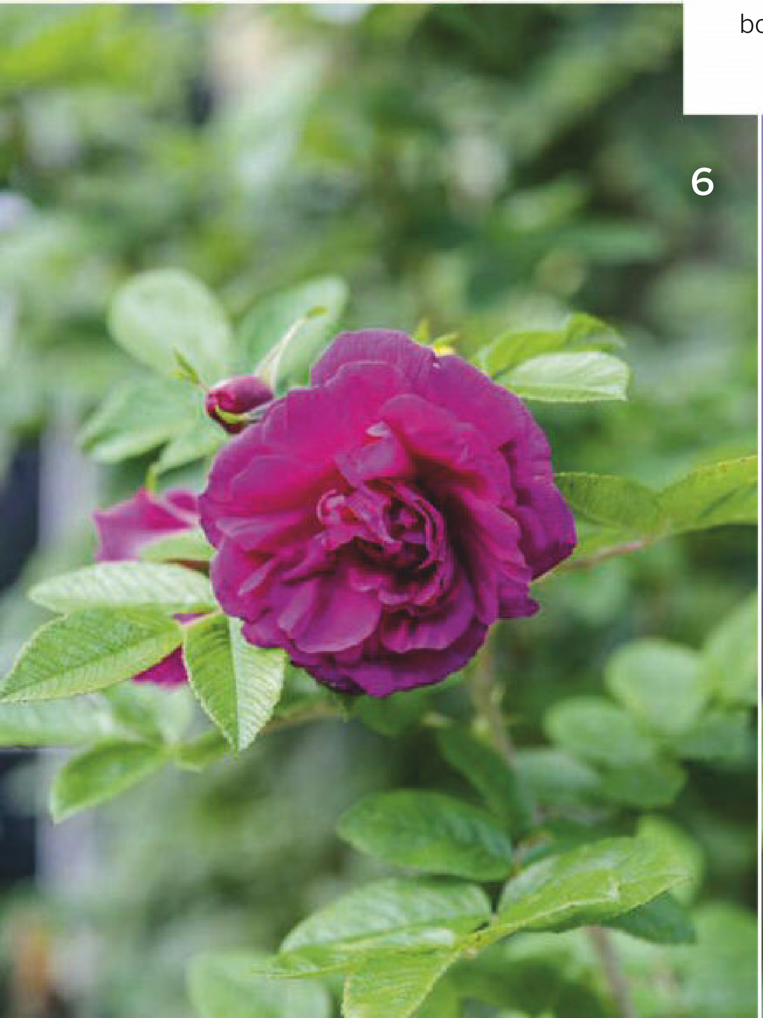
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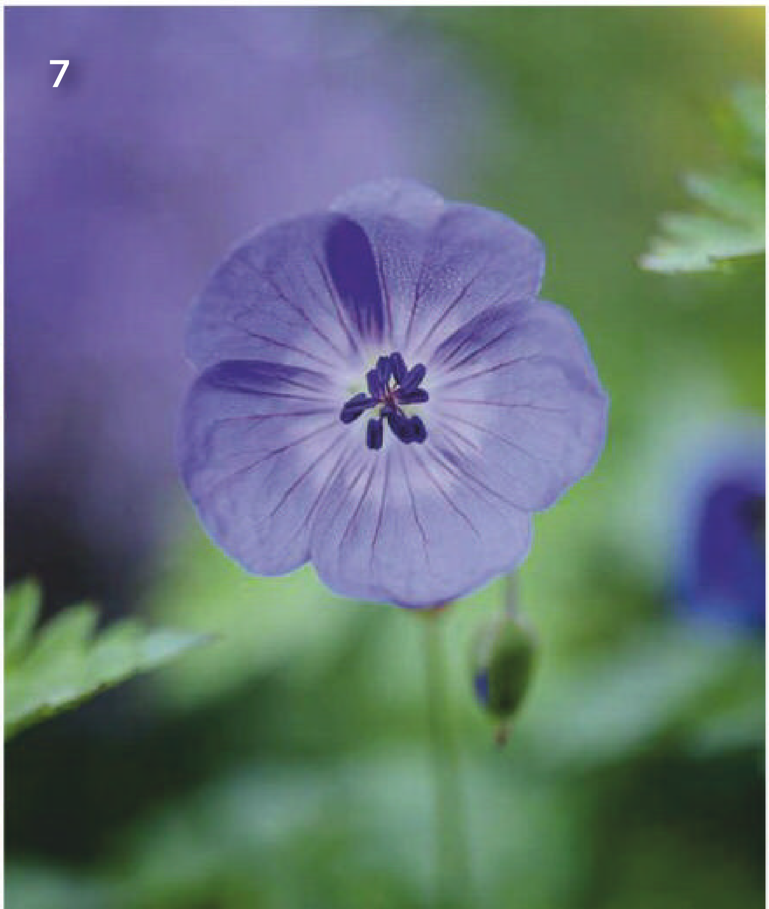
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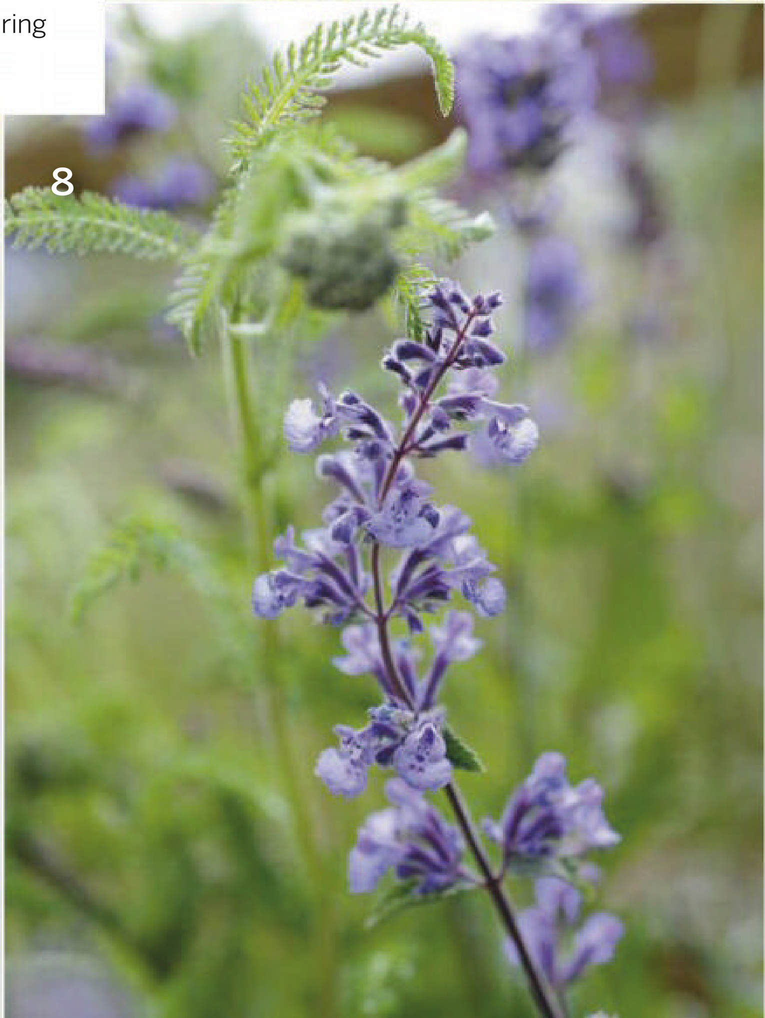
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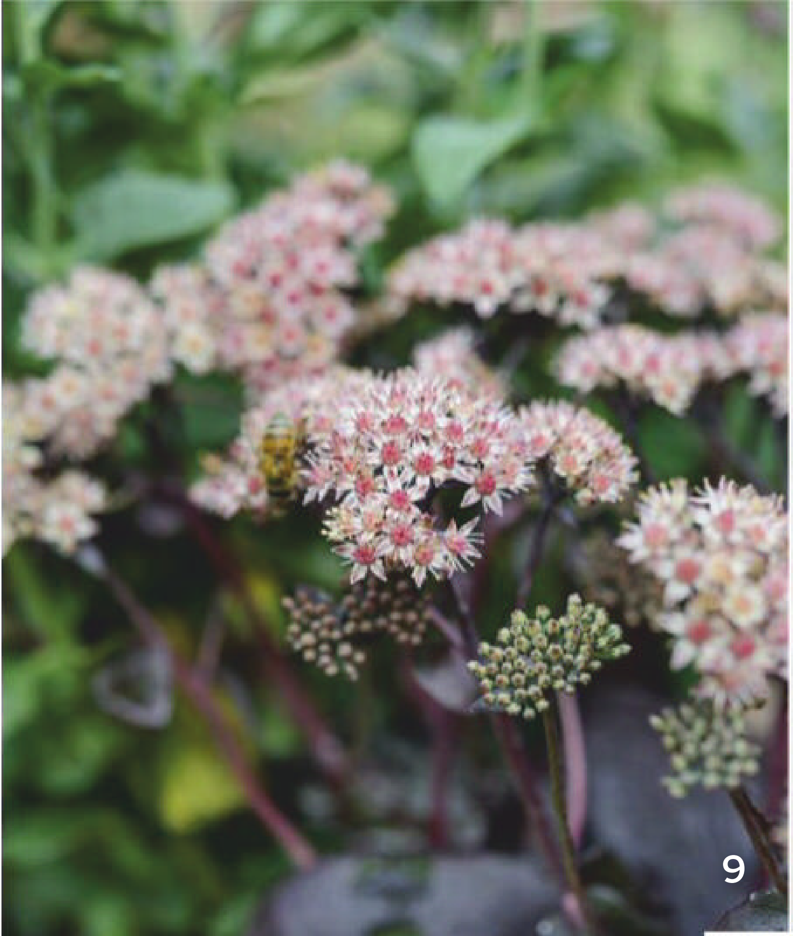
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9 ***Hylotelephium telephium*** **'Purple Emperor'**
Succulent, bronze-purple leaves with red-purple flowers that are a valuable source of nectar for butterflies through the autumn. 50cm. AGM. RHS H7, USDA 3a-7b.

10 ***Lavandula angustifolia*** **'Hidcote'**
A compact lavender, bearing dense spikes of fragrant, deep-purple flowers above needle-like, silvery-grey foliage. An ideal aromatic plant for edging paths or borders. 60cm. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 5a-8b.

11 ***Campanula lactiflora*** **'Prichard's Variety'**
A tall, upright bellflower with leafy stems that carry rounded clusters of violet-blue flowers from midsummer to autumn in full sun or partial shade. 75cm. AGM. RHS H7.

12 ***Digitalis ferruginea***
The rusty foxglove is a tall biennial or short-lived perennial with a rosette of glossy green leaves and spikes of orangey-brown flowers; self-seeds readily in moist, well-drained soil. 1.5m. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 4a-8b.

13 ***Berberis thunbergii*** **f.** ***atropurpurea*** **'Red Pillar'**
A very spiny, deciduous shrub with dark-purple foliage that turns red in autumn and is followed by small, red berries. 1.5m. RHS H7.

14 ***Eupatorium maculatum*** **Atropurpureum Group**
The leaves of this robust herbaceous perennial are whorled and oval, with erect purplish stems bearing flat clusters of small, tubular, deep rose-purple flowers. 2m. RHS H7.

15 ***Rosa*** **'Sea Foam'**
A bushy and vigorous groundcover rose bearing slightly fragrant double-white flowers that fade to pale pink as they age. Flowers June to early autumn. 1m. USDA 4a-9b.

16 ***Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*** **'Barr's Blue'**
Semi-double, violet-blue, clump-forming aster on tall, stiffly upright stems. Ideal for the back of a sunny border where low-growing perennials will hide its bare lower stems. 1.6m. USDA 4a-8b.

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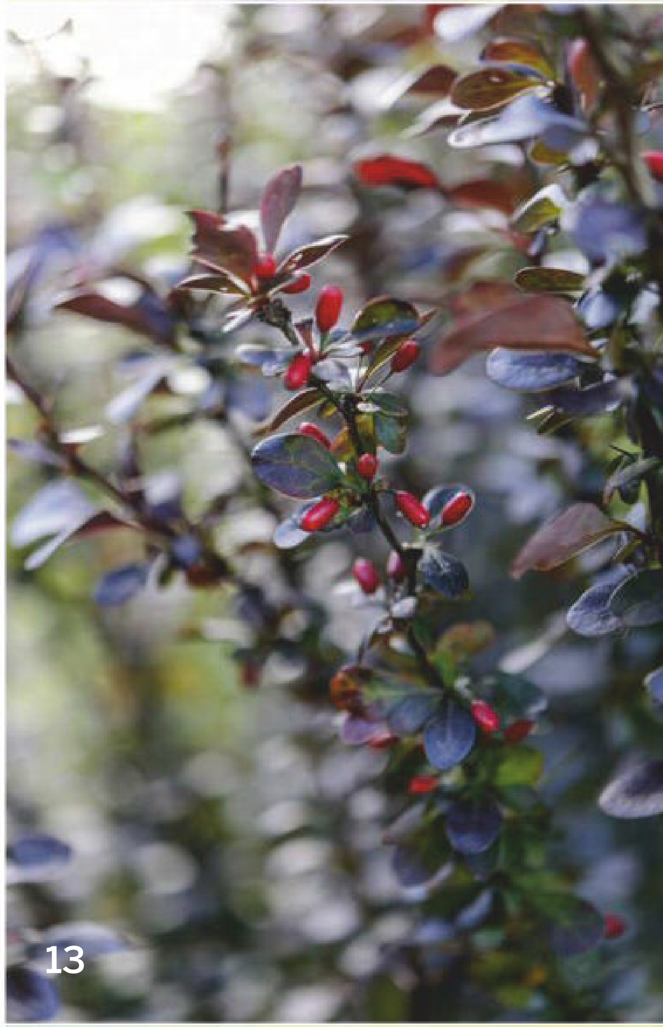
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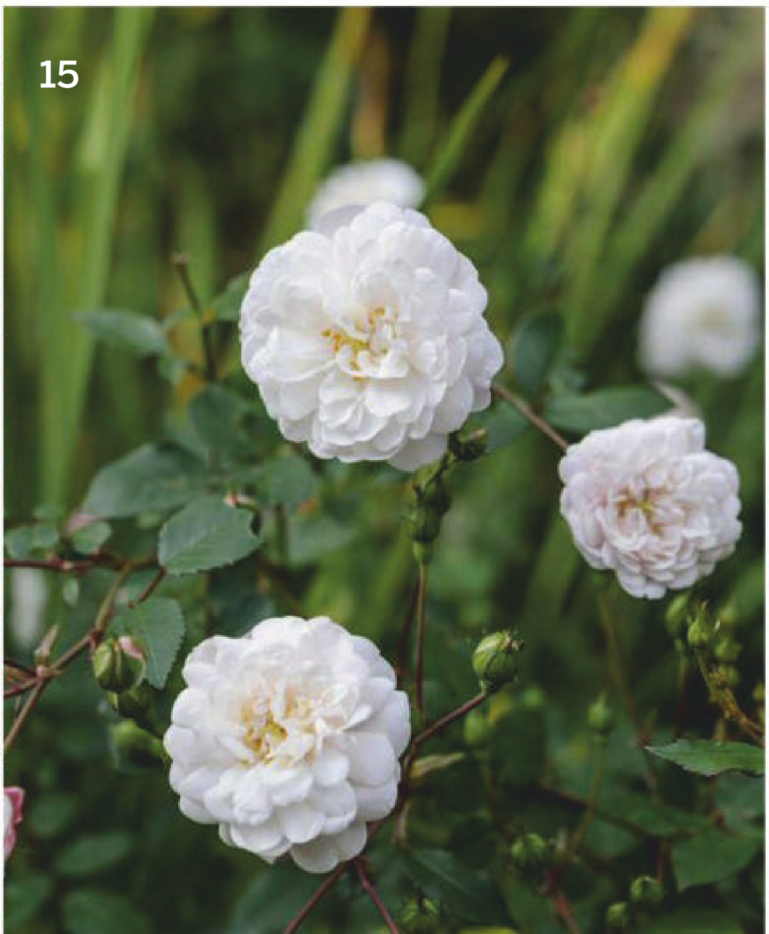
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*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
†Hardiness ratings given where available.

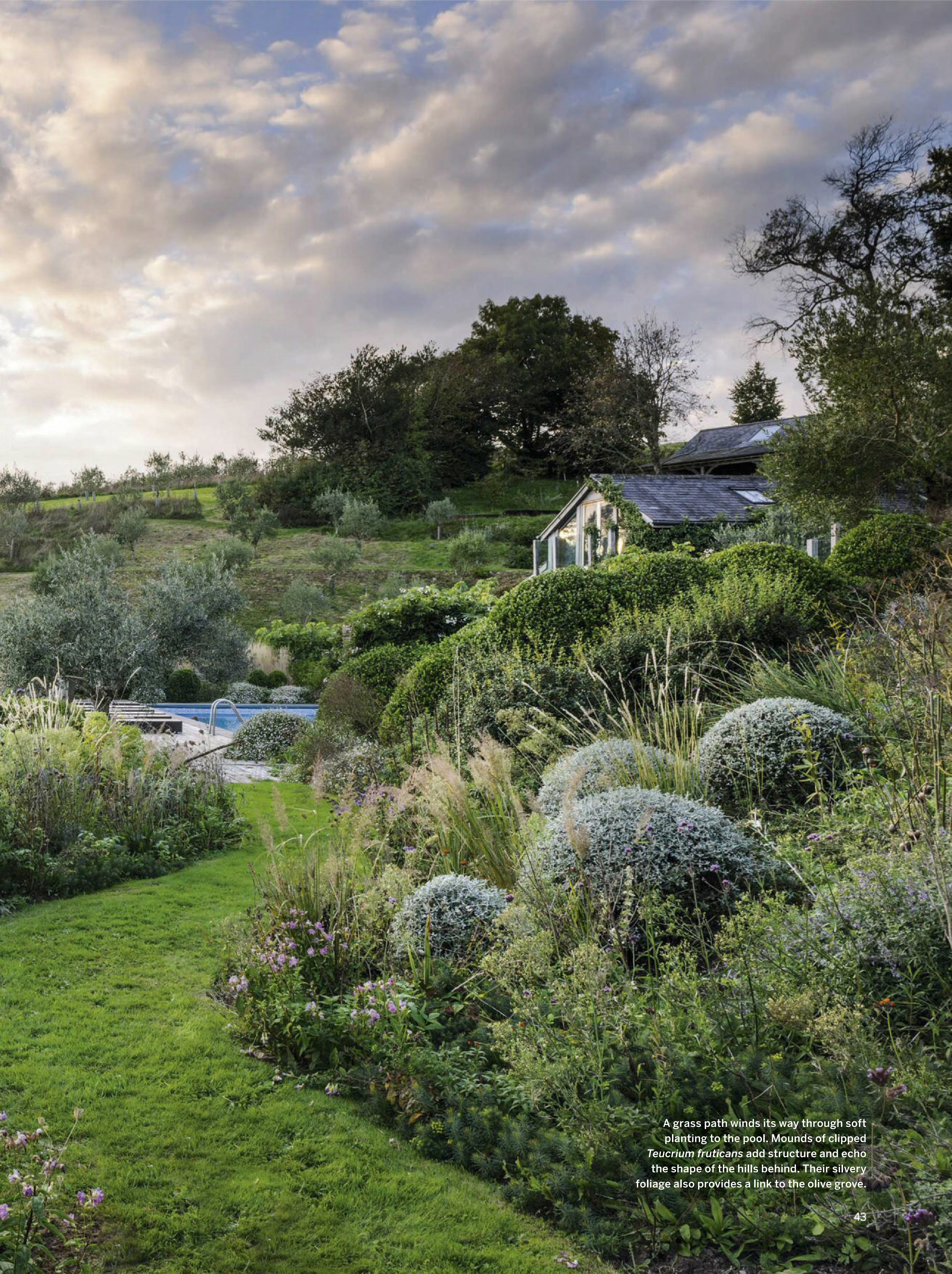
THE LONG VIEW

In the rolling south Devon hills, designer Conrad Batten has created a productive Mediterranean-inspired garden that is adapted for a future climate

WORDS MATTHEW REESE PHOTOGRAPHS JASON INGRAM

IN BRIEF

Name Worden House.
What Ornamental garden.
Where South Devon.
Size Nine acres.
Soil Stoney shillet.
Climate Mild winters, warmer summers.
Hardiness zone USDA 9.



A grass path winds its way through soft planting to the pool. Mounds of clipped *Teucrium fruticans* add structure and echo the shape of the hills behind. Their silvery foliage also provides a link to the olive grove.

Sheltered in the head of a small picturesque and secluded valley with a predominantly southerly aspect sits the contemporary building Worden House. The Mediterranean-style garden wraps around it, flowing along the slopes and into the valley below before dissolving into the surrounding countryside. From the very top of the garden, one can just make out the sea on the horizon beyond the curves of the nearby hills.

Conrad Batten, a Devon-based landscape and garden designer, set about creating a Mediterranean garden here nine years ago. His plan was to create a garden that took advantage of the particular microclimate at Worden. The garden is close enough to the sea to benefit from its warming effects, which tend to ward off the majority of radiation frosts. The garden is also set in a valley where it is protected from the brunt of the salt-laden winds (the bane of many coastal gardens) and boasts an enviable climate for cultivating plants that might otherwise be considered much too tender to be grown outdoors permanently in the UK. This unique and wonderful setting is truly a haven that feels a world away from it all.

On the valley slopes around the house Conrad has planted a large grove of mostly Tuscan olives *Olea europaea* 'Frantoio'. He used approximately 145 of these signature Mediterranean plants (the largest planting of its type in the UK at the time) to set the tone in the garden. The oldest trees were 150 years old and were planted closest to the house, while the younger Tuscan olives were lined out on the slopes further away (very much like something one might see at a Spanish *finca*).

As a former pupil of the renowned forest gardener, Martin Crawford, Conrad thought it would be wonderful to create a productive Mediterranean forest garden at Worden House and made the decision to use olives. Conrad has also planted the garden to be ready for climate change. "Martin Crawford suggested ten years ago that in 30 years' time, we are likely to have a climate similar to Bordeaux," says Conrad. While studying with Martin, Conrad met Mark Diacono from the popular Otter Farm who had set up an experimental climate-change garden using olives, peaches, apricots and almonds. After observing the plants doing very well there, Conrad decided to take a similar approach in the garden at Worden.

The olives are now firmly established and doing. "We haven't lost a single one," says Conrad. That doesn't mean there haven't been a few anxious moments along the way. During the winter of 2010 Worden had a covering of snow, and it was with heart in mouth that Conrad and his colleague Will Cumberlidge monitored the plants, but everything came through relatively intact. Keeping with the Mediterranean theme, French almonds, *Prunus dulcis* 'Ferraduel', apricots and peaches have also been added to the mix, and, bar a few losses, are doing particularly well and bearing fruit.

The philosophy behind the planting stands out at Worden House, but so do the breathtaking aesthetics. The garden has a distinctly Mediterranean feel and yet has been skilfully woven into the Devon countryside. The surrounding pastures transition seamlessly into garden. The olives are underplanted with a meadow that is alive with wildlife. Marbled white, gatekeeper and skipper butterflies abound among the flowers, while yellowhammers, wrens and chiffchaffs fill the garden with song. The meadow is the buffer between the garden and countryside, and also the backdrop to the olive groves, gently blending them into the landscape. Mown grass paths snake through the meadows and lead down to the house where the planting becomes more precise and calculated. The landscaping nearest the house is more formally terraced with dry-stone walls. Heavy oak sleepers are laid like paving on sand and are also used to create steps. The materials echo those used to build the house and serve to join the house to the garden.

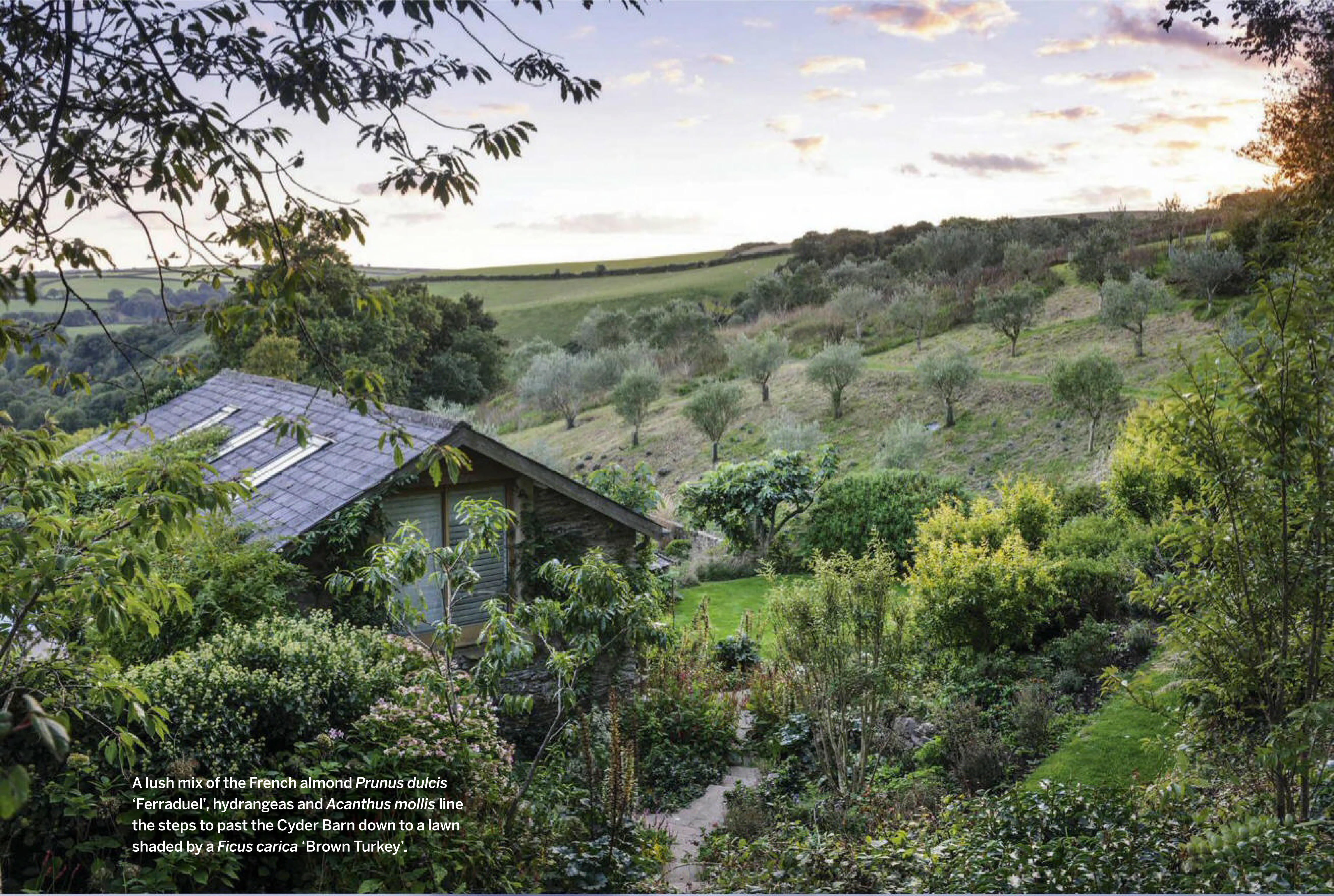
The more structured mixture combines perennials and shrubs, with some of the shrubs, such as the cotton lavender and myrtle, clipped into small domes. These static elements are woven through the more fluid plantings and, when taking in the panoramic view, they echo the olive groves and the meadows on the slopes. Lavender and origanum are strong components of the perennial plantings with salvias, euphorbias and teurcriums adding to the Mediterranean-mix. Self-seeders run at a pace throughout the plantings around the house and give the garden its "scratch, scrape and scrub" atmosphere as Conrad calls it. These happenchance volunteers scrape a living where they can and dilute the hand of man to make the planting look more natural. Valerian, ox-eye daisies, wild carrots, dianthus, dierama and *Verbena bonariensis* are some of the best self-seeders and thrive in the stony soil. Fox-and-cubs (*Pilosella aurantiaca*) does particularly well here, wending its way through permanent plantings. Many of the self-sowers in the garden can also be found in the meadows and play an important role in unifying the two. As you travel through the garden, they form a continuous thread that subtly links the different areas. Around the house the hedges are clipped in an undulating form that accentuates the hills in the distance. Swathes of *Acanthus mollis* 'Rue Ledan' are juxtaposed with hoherias creating movement under the taller trees.

The garden at Worden House is young and evolving. Conrad envisages more emphasis on the shrubby element of the garden or "the muscle" as he describes it around the house over the coming years. "The drama will increase with different scales changing and shrubs growing, with perennial areas being more niche," he says. There are plans for more tree planting, widening hedges into habitat corridors, and the possibility of a micro-vine yard. This pioneering garden is sympathetic to the landscape and wildlife while creating a truly breathtaking atmosphere and space, and with climate change looming, is set to continue to flourish and thrive. □

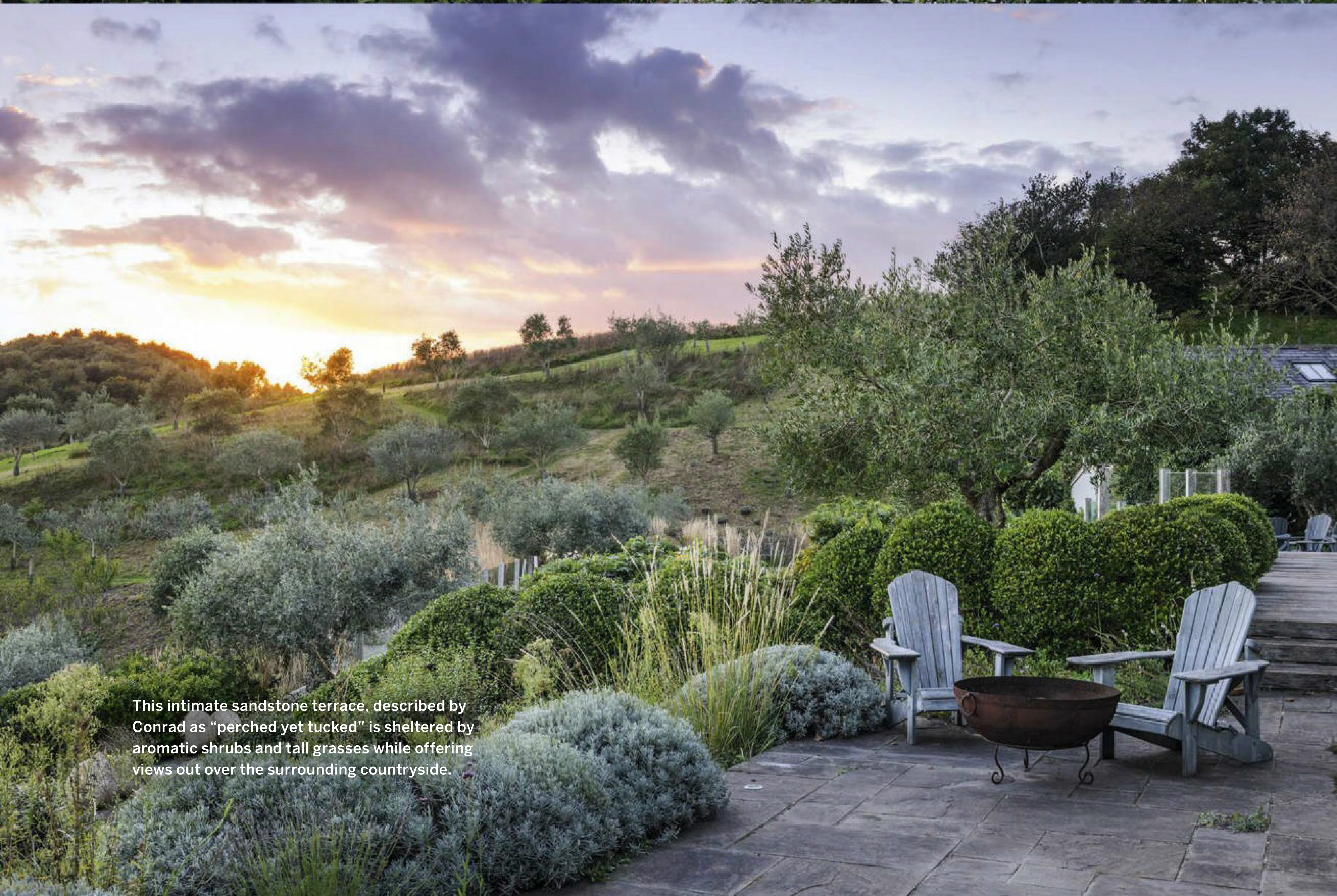
USEFUL INFORMATION

Find out more about Conrad's work at **conradbattendesign.co.uk**

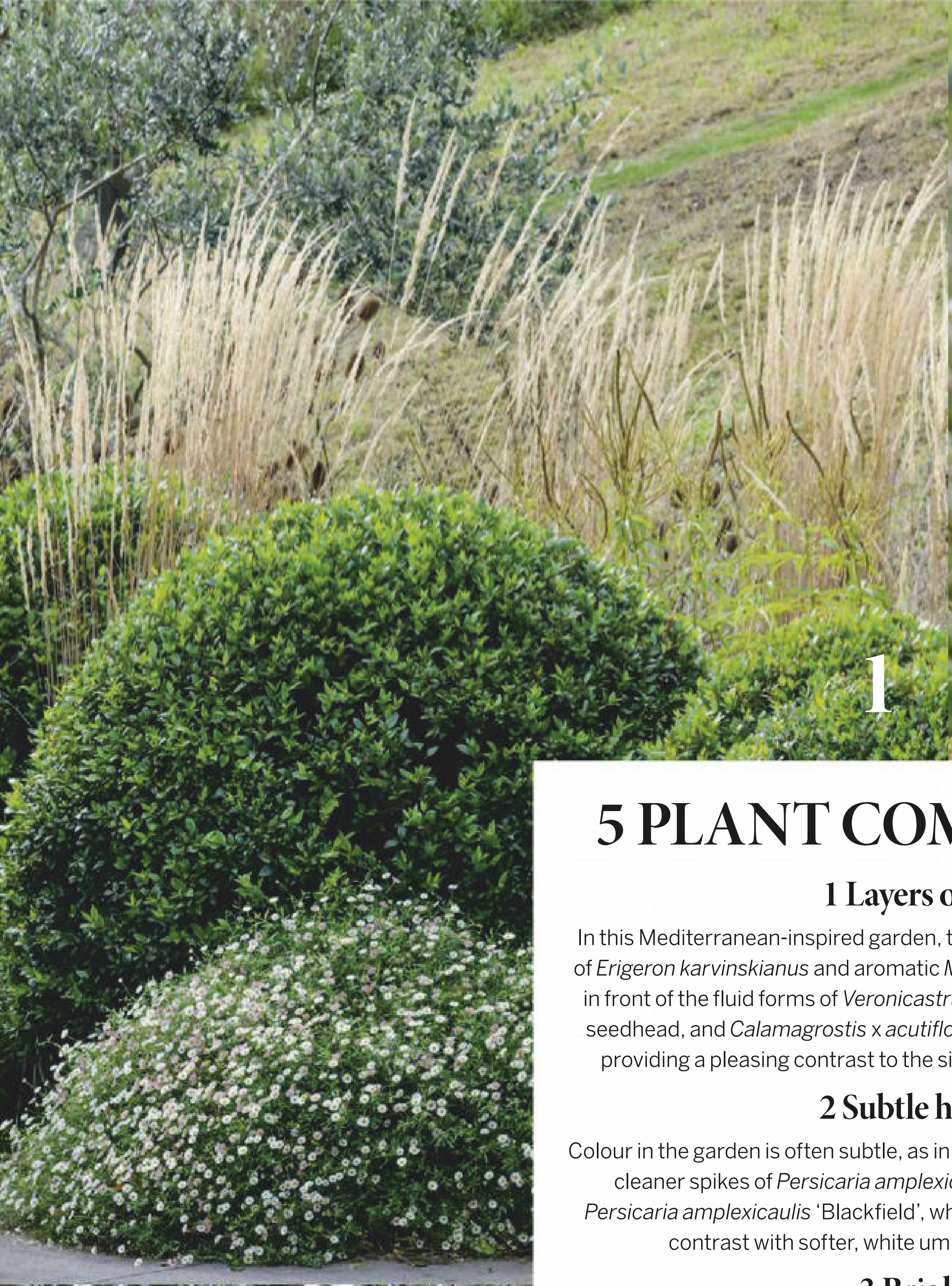
Turn the page to see more of the garden at Worden House and its key plants.



A lush mix of the French almond *Prunus dulcis* 'Ferraduel', hydrangeas and *Acanthus mollis* line the steps to past the Cyder Barn down to a lawn shaded by a *Ficus carica* 'Brown Turkey'.



This intimate sandstone terrace, described by Conrad as "perched yet tucked" is sheltered by aromatic shrubs and tall grasses while offering views out over the surrounding countryside.



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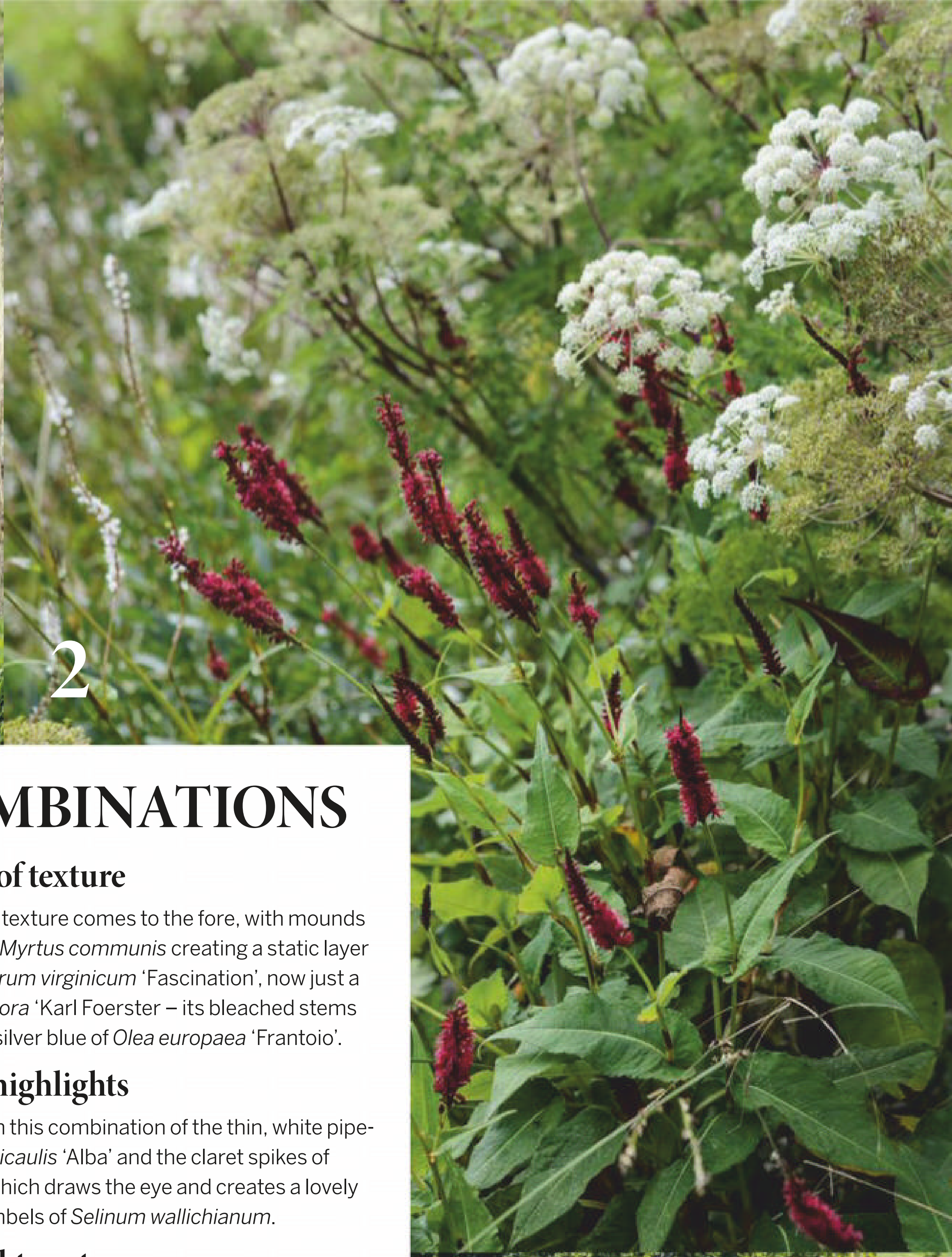

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5 PLANT COMBINATIONS

1 Layers of texture

In this Mediterranean-inspired garden, texture comes to the fore, with mounds of *Erigeron karvinskianus* and aromatic *Myrtus communis* creating a static layer in front of the fluid forms of *Veronicastrum virginicum* 'Fascination', now just a seedhead, and *Calamagrostis* x *acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster – its bleached stems providing a pleasing contrast to the silver blue of *Olea europaea* 'Frantoio'.

2 Subtle highlights

Colour in the garden is often subtle, as in this combination of the thin, white pipe-cleaner spikes of *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Alba' and the claret spikes of *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Blackfield', which draws the eye and creates a lovely contrast with softer, white umbels of *Selinum wallichianum*.

3 Bright spot

Near the steps leading down the pool, the delicate flowers of *Hesperantha coccinea* 'Mrs Hegarty', add an eye-catching burst of pink to the green of *Pittosporum tenuifolium* 'Nanum' and grey-blue of *Olea europaea*.

4 Soft focus

The self-sowing *Erigeron karvinskianus* sets a relaxed tone for this corner. Its domes mirror the rounded stones and the domes of *Myrtus communis* and *Rosmarinus officinalis*, which both bring delicious scent into the mix.

5 Shades of blue

The grey-blue foliage of *Olea europaea* 'Frantoio' sets a cool colour palette for this soft mix of planting, where the pale flowerheads of *Pennisetum macrourum* and *Daucus carota*, and the dark seedheads of *Dipsacus fullonum* float above a mass of *Conyza canadensis*. The blue theme continues with the faded flowers of *Origanum laevigatum* 'Herrenhausen' and *Lavandula* x *intermedia* 'Grosso'.

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145 *OLEA EUROPAEA* 'FRANTOIO' OLIVE TREES SET THE TONE. THE OLDEST WERE 150 YEARS OLD

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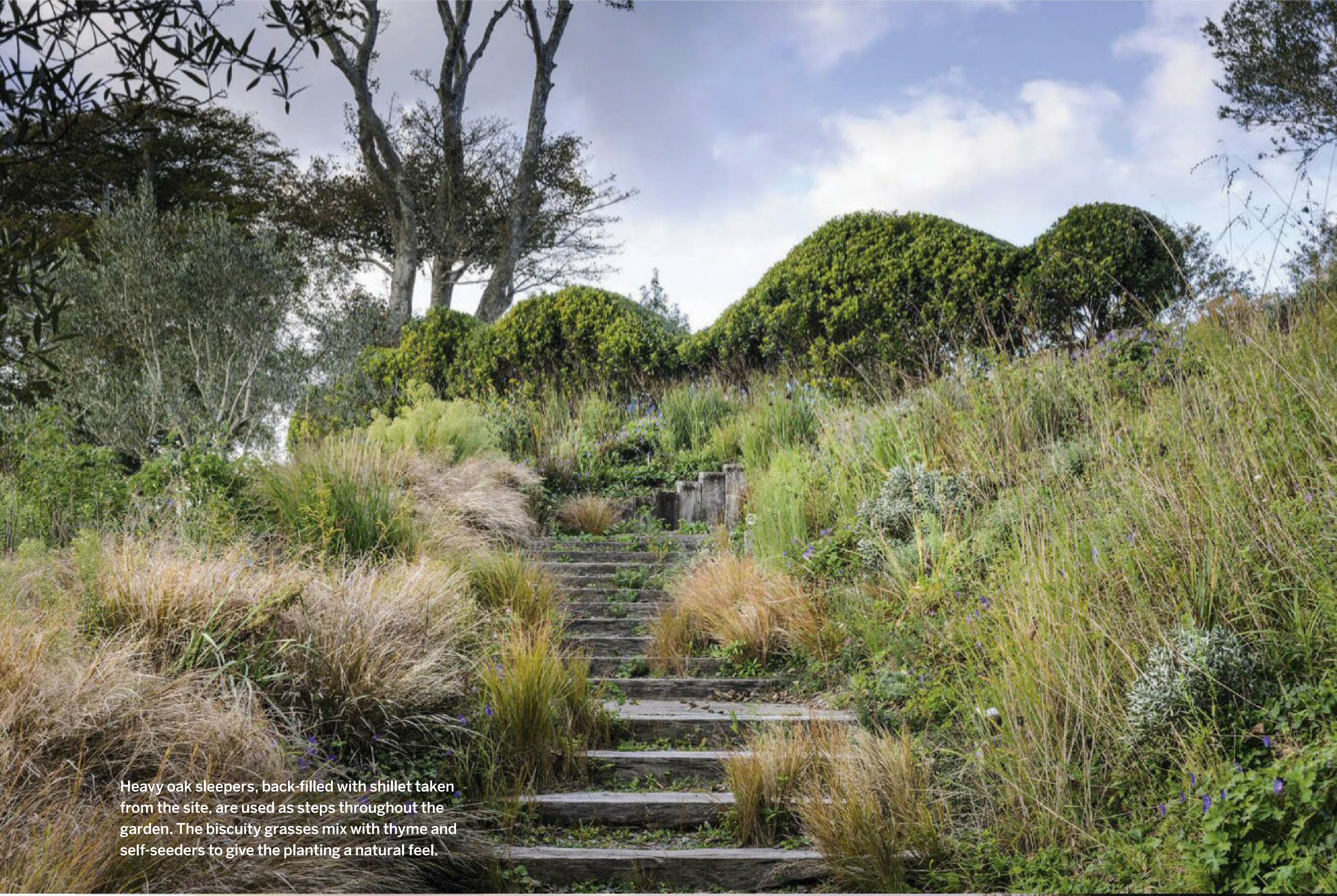
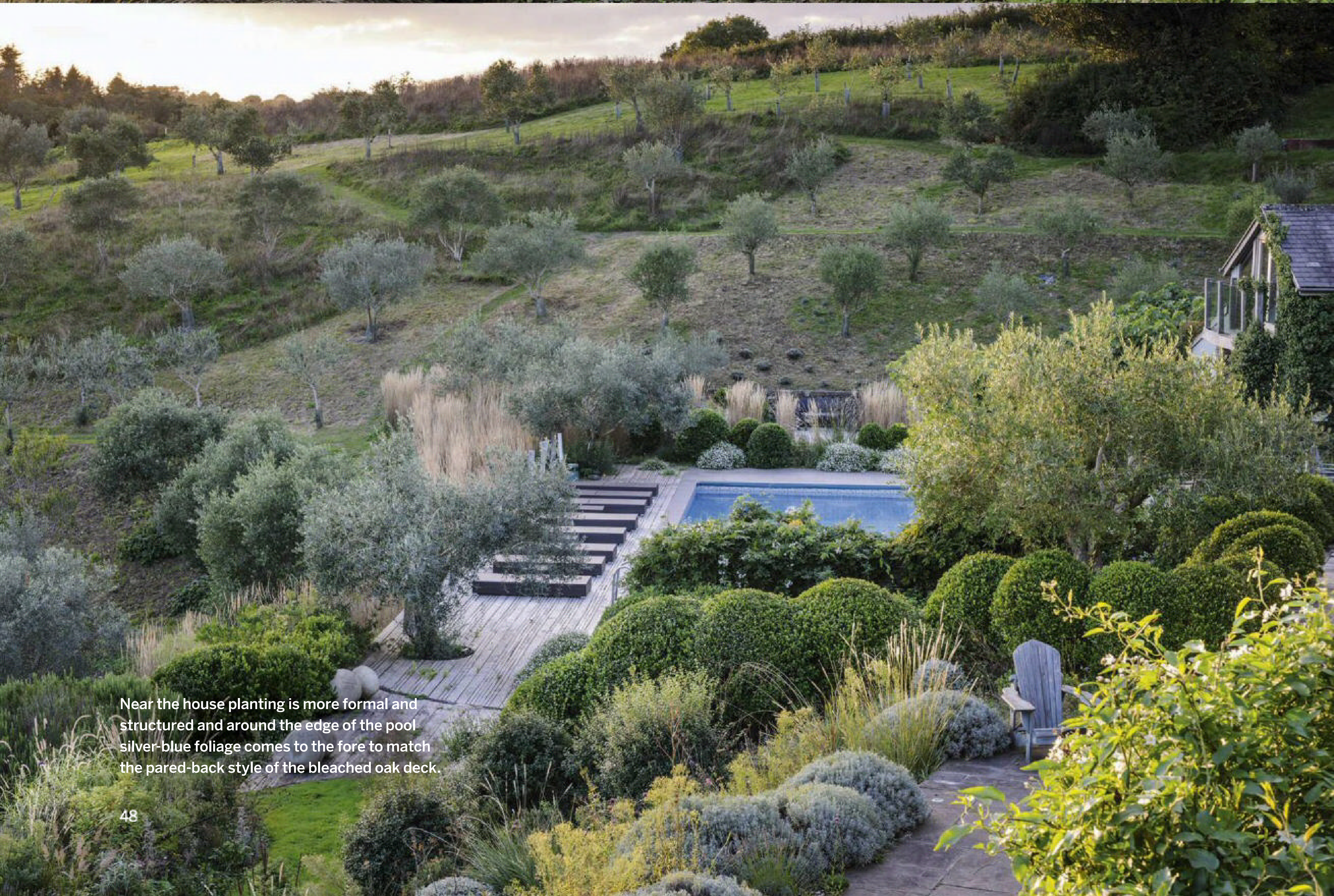
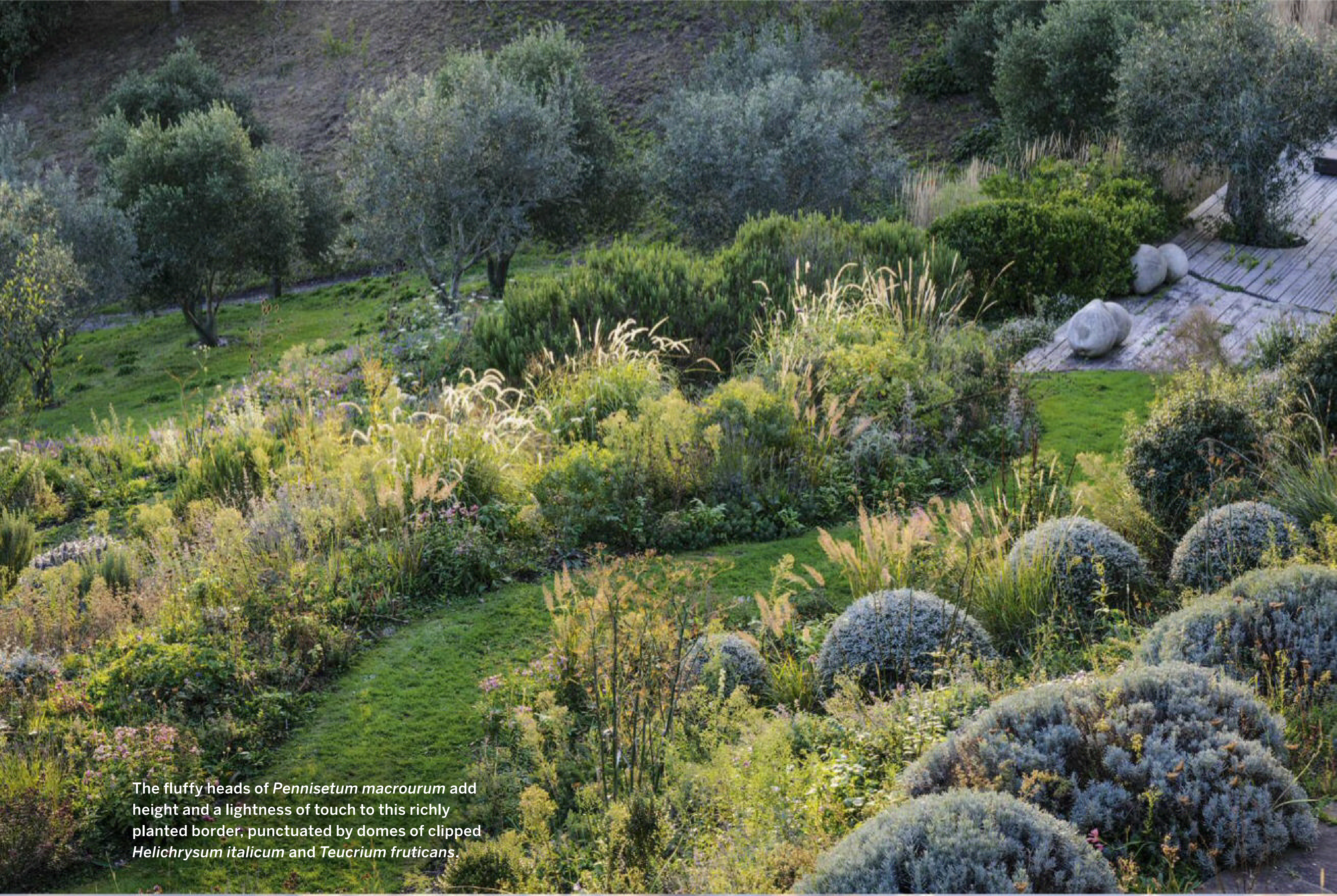


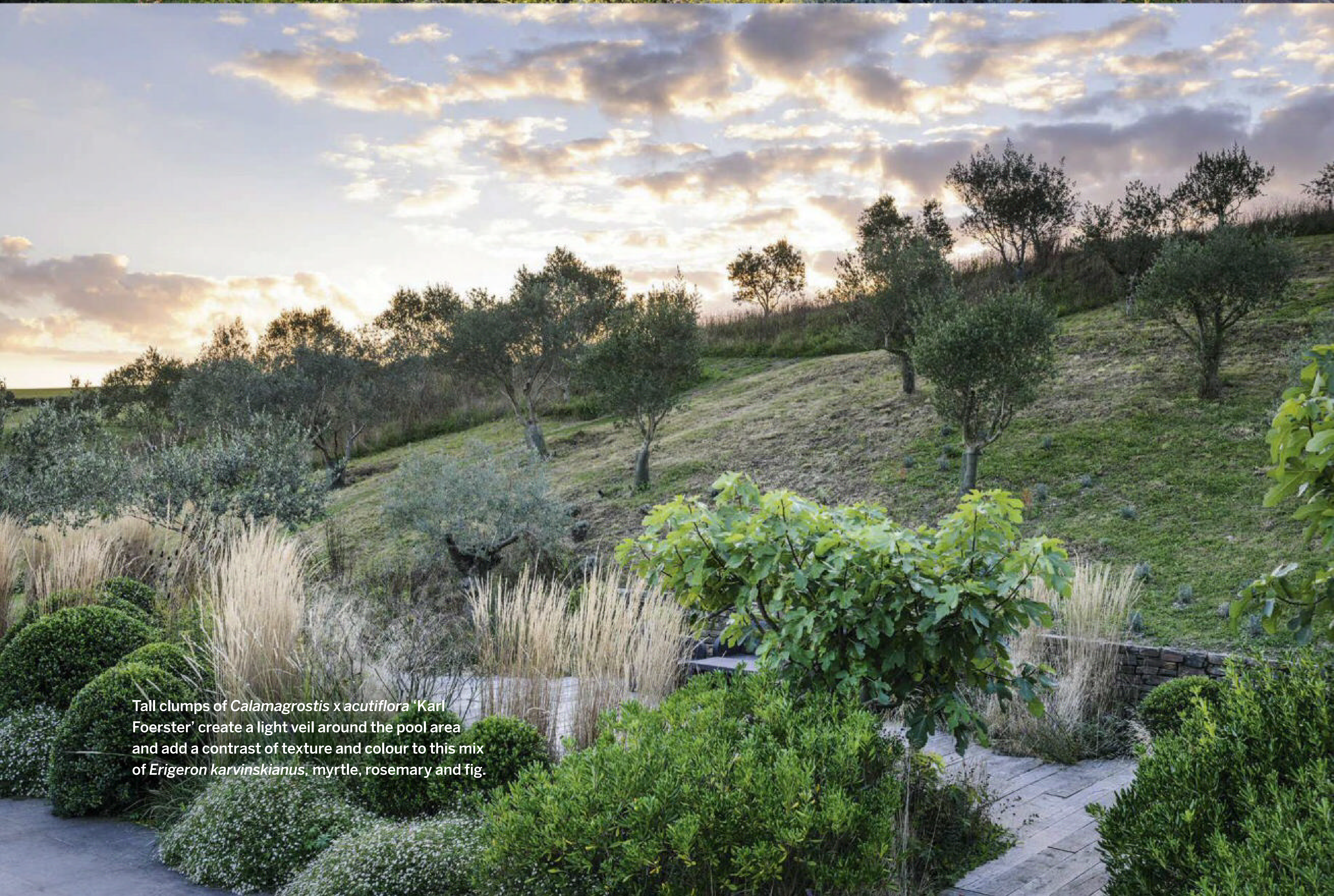
Heavy oak sleepers, back-filled with shillet taken from the site, are used as steps throughout the garden. The biscuity grasses mix with thyme and self-seeders to give the planting a natural feel.



Near the house planting is more formal and structured and around the edge of the pool silver-blue foliage comes to the fore to match the pared-back style of the bleached oak deck.



The fluffy heads of *Pennisetum macrourum* add height and a lightness of touch to this richly planted border, punctuated by domes of clipped *Helichrysum italicum* and *Teucrium fruticans*.



Tall clumps of *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' create a light veil around the pool area and add a contrast of texture and colour to this mix of *Erigeron karvinskianus*, myrtle, rosemary and fig.

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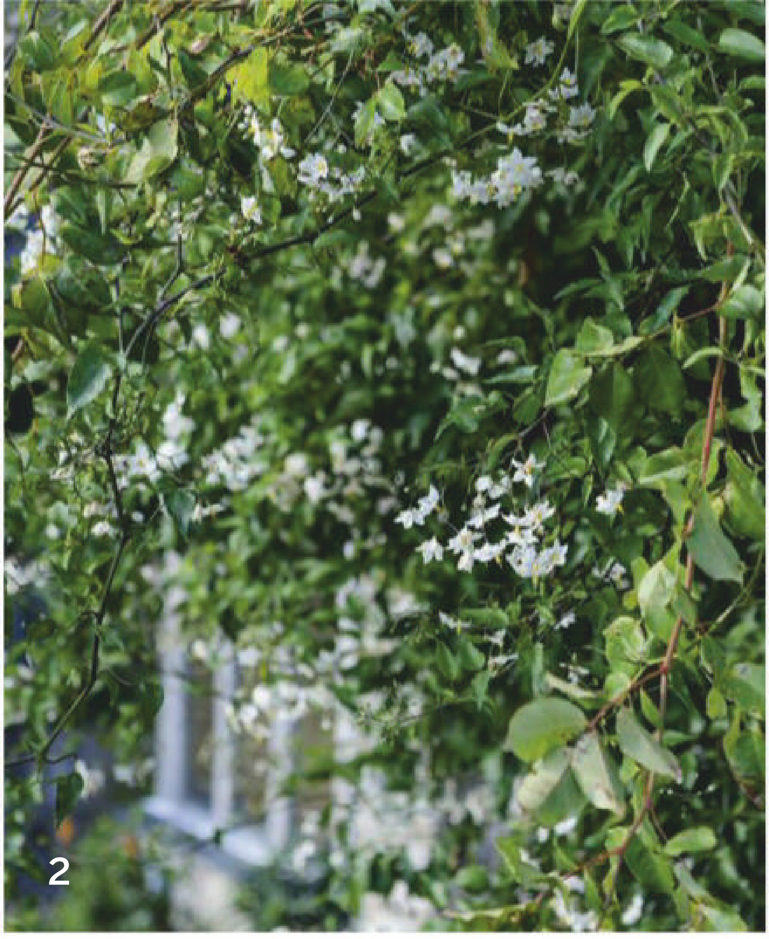
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16 KEY PLANTS

1 *Origanum laevigatum* 'Herrenhausen'
A long-flowering oregano that produces wiry stems covered in masses of small, purple flowers. 50cm. AGM*. RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b†.

2 *Solanum laxum* 'Album'
This is a vigorous climbing member of the nightshade family. Sprays of white flowers are produced on the new growth through the summer and into the autumn. Prune hard in the spring. 6m. AGM. RHS H4.

3 *Panicum virgatum* 'Rehbraun'
A good switch grass that makes airy plumes of pink-tinged flowerheads in summer, and has leaves that turn rusty red in the autumn. Best in good fertile soil, not too wet. 90cm. RHS H7, USDA 5a-9b.

4 *Persicaria affinis* 'Donald Lowndes'
This creeping groundcover makes a mat of small evergreen leaves, with pink pipe-cleaner flowers. Good at the front of a border. 20cm. RHS H7.

5 *Daucus carota*
One of the nicest of all umbels and loved by insects. Produces dense umbels on thin stems. 1.5m. RHS H7, USDA 2a- 11b.

6 *Olea europaea* 'Frantoio'
One of the hardiest of the Tuscan olives. It is best grown in a sheltered site, but can tolerate quite cold winters without protection. Needs sun and a free-draining soil. Self-fertile. RHS H4, USDA 8a-10b.

7 *Choisya ternata*
A tough, drought-tolerant, evergreen shrub with glossy aromatic foliage and scented, white flowers. Old plants can be rejuvenated when cut back hard in the spring. 2m. AGM. RHS H4, USDA 7a-10b.

8 *Hesperantha coccinea* 'Sunrise'
An evergreen perennial that makes masses of thin, sword-shaped leaves. Flowers are produced in the autumn on narrow spikes just above the foliage. 40cm. RHS H4, USDA 7a-9b.

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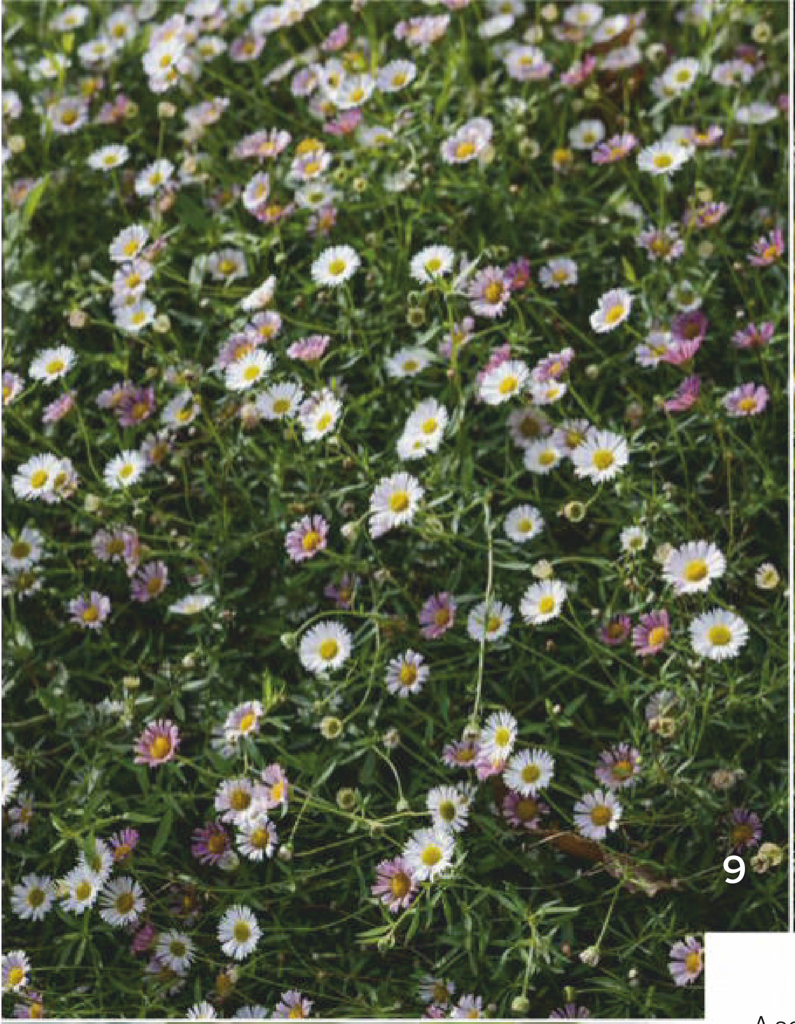
*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
†Hardiness ratings given where available.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9 *Erigeron karvinskianus*
A self-sowing opportunist that will colonise the smallest cracks in paving and walls. Likes full sun and sharp drainage. 30cm. AGM. RHS H5.

10 *Pennisetum macrourum*
Has upright habit, flowers earlier than most *Pennisetum* species (from early summer onwards). It produces thin airy bottlebrush flowers in faded-pink, that age to gold-grey. 90cm. RHS H3, USDA 3a-8b.

11 *Dipsacus fullonum*
A tall, branching biennial that will seed through the garden and thrives in poor, free-draining soil. It can become a nuisance and will need thinning so it doesn't become a problem. 2m. RHS H7, USDA 3a-8b.

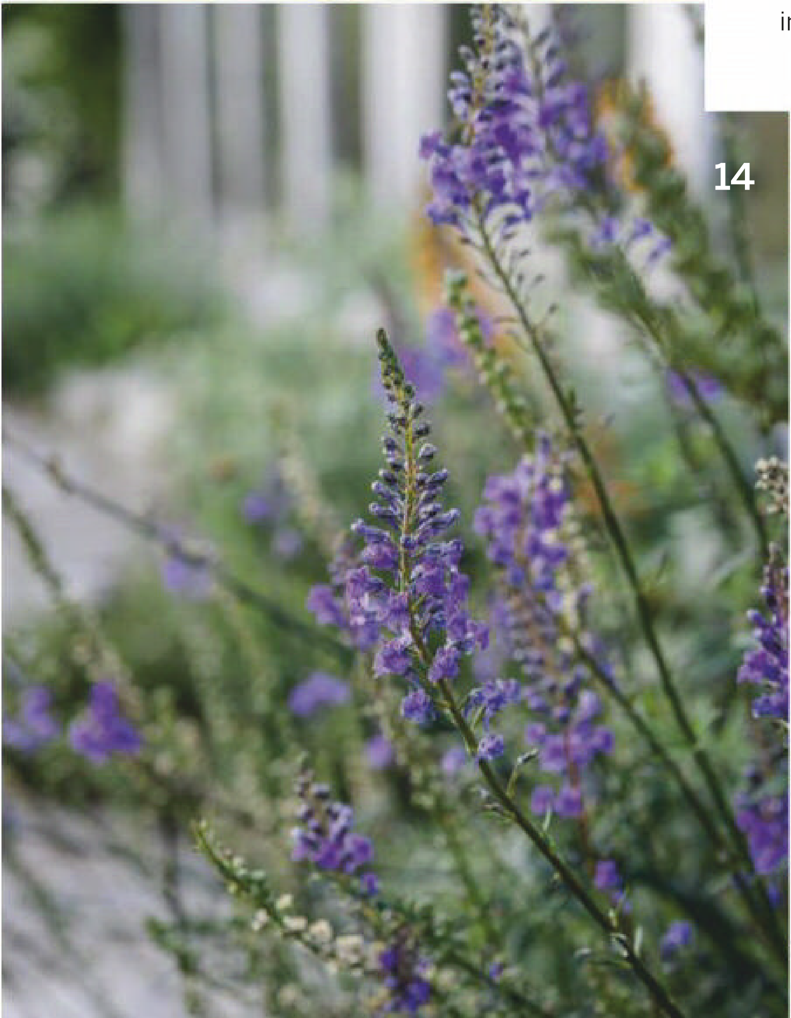
12 *Mespilus germanica* 'Westerveld'
A old Dutch medlar that produces masses of plump fruits with a good flavour. Large, rose-like flowers in late spring. Self-fertile. 3.5m. RHS H5.

13 *Aloe striatula*
A particularly hardy South African aloe that makes whorls of thin, succulent foliage from which bright-yellow flower spikes are produced. Likes a sunny spot with a free-draining soil. 2m. RHS H3.

14 *Linaria purpurea*
A perennial that will flower from seed in its first year. It will spread in free-draining soils and make wands of grey-green foliage topped with spikes of mauve flowers. 60cm. RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b.

15 *Ficus carica* 'Brown Turkey'
Probably the most commonly grown fig in the UK. It makes a large, sprawling shrub with fat twigs and large palmate leaves. It is often trained against a wall. Its sap and foliage can cause skin irritation. 5m. RHS H4, USDA 6a-9b.

16 *Pilosella aurantiaca*
This creeping perennial makes small, daisy-like, burnt-orange flowers in summer. Even those die-hard haters of orange find it difficult to resist its charm. Will tough it out in long grass. 30cm. RHS H6.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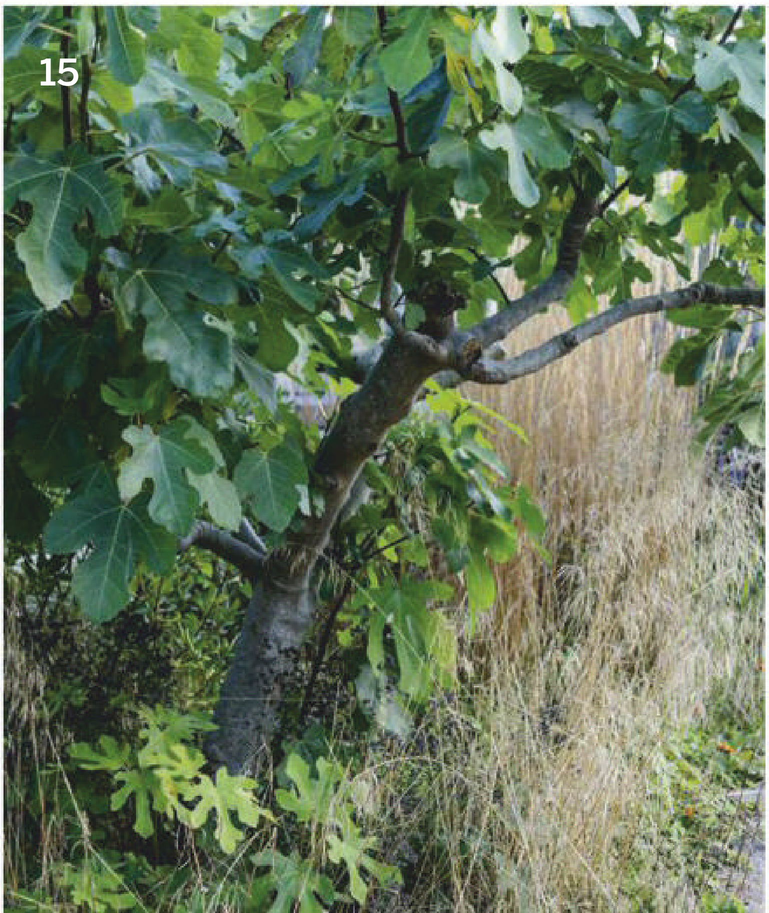
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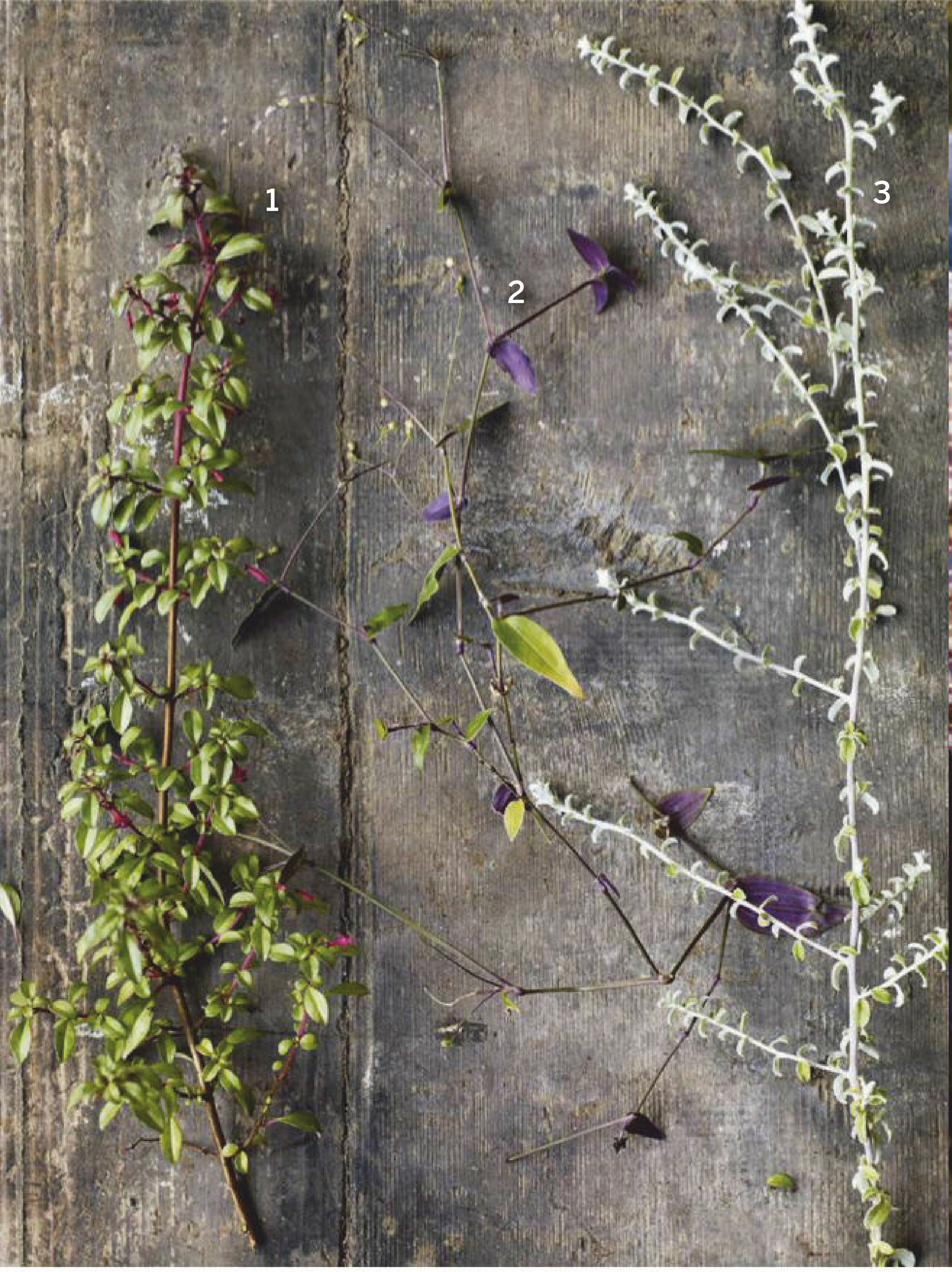
SUMMER'S PASSING

Head gardener Benjamin William Pope brings summer to a close with three sophisticated displays that add a touch of easy charm and subtle colour until early autumn

WORDS **BENJAMIN WILLIAM POPE** PHOTOGRAPHS **ANDREW MONTGOMERY**



LATE CONTENDERS

There are some plants that look their best in youth, while others dramatically improve with the passing of time. In an old coal scuttle, this simple mix of fuchsia, tradescantia and a plecostachys have grown close through the summer months, merging foliage and flower. Delicately they intertwine with one another to create an atmospheric planting with a soft, decadent appearance that even Miss Havisham would welcome.

How to achieve the look

Container and composition
The aged patina on the coal scuttle works wonders for this brooding look, and I like that it provides a link to the past that fits well with this display. Various scratches and dents help to evoke atmosphere as it sets the tone for the planting. Burnished undertones of warm copper and glaucous touches of verdigris are picked up in the entanglement of silver, green and burgundy foliage. As it's the largest plant, the fuchsia is planted towards the back, with the tradescantia and *Plecostachys serpyllifolia* further forward and to either side. The habit and nature of the plants guarantee they grow into one another, while the matching scale and complementary colours of the foliage ensure a pleasing display.

Cultivation and care
Tradescantia 'Bridal Veil' is a tender perennial that is definitely not frost hardy, so you'll need to wait until all risk of frost has passed before you plant up the container. Make sure that there is adequate drainage by drilling several holes into the base of the scuttle and cover these with crocks before adding a mix of multi-purpose compost and loam. Water in and initially remove the tips of the stems to promote branching. Feed throughout the summer every two to three weeks using a liquid fertiliser and trim any growth that becomes unruly. During late summer these trimmings can be used as cuttings that can easily be overwintered for use in the garden the following year.

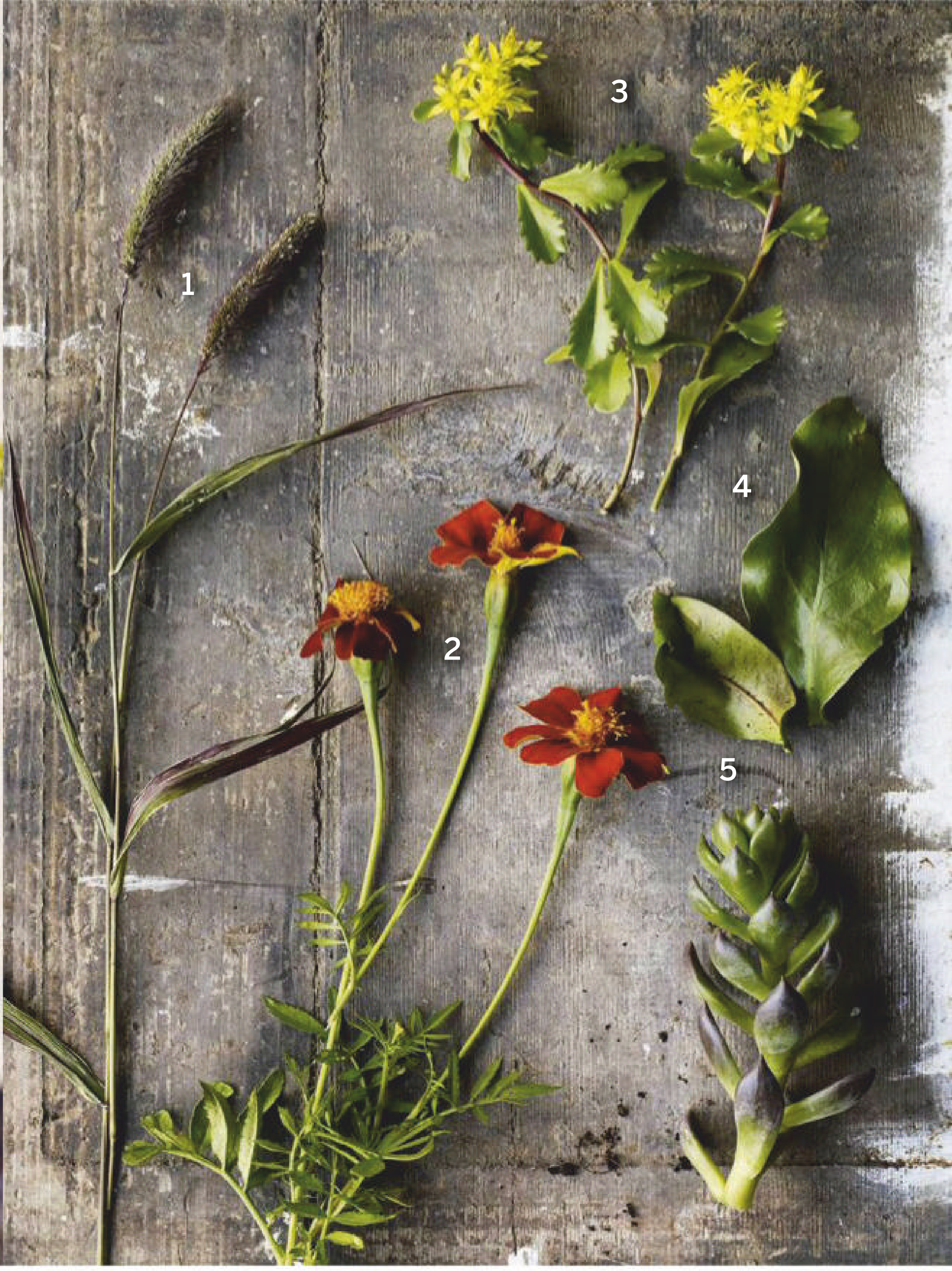
Plants

1 *Fuchsia* 'Marlies de Keijzer'
A fuchsia grown mainly for its attractive, silvery foliage, which has pinkish undertones, although it also produces tiny, salmon-pink flowers. 90cm. RHS H4†.

2 *Tradescantia* 'Bridal Veil'
An evergreen perennial with an elegant cascading appearance. Its dark-green leaves have a rich purple underside, over which tiny white flowers appear in summer. 20cm. RHS H1C.

3 *Plecostachys serpyllifolia*
This South African perennial has a refined habit with stems that gently sprawl to form a froth of tiny silver leaves. 40cm. RHS H3.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.



NEW BEGINNINGS

I salvaged this old wooden trough from a friend's garden. Although it was a little battered, the sides and base were still intact and its proportions were appealing. Contemplating how best to preserve the timber, my idea for a black lapboard gave way to thoughts of Derek Jarman's house in Dungeness, and its combination of black and yellow. In these colours the trough lends itself to warm and vibrant tones that epitomise the last days of summer.

How to achieve the look

Container and composition

Start with the container. Prepare and protect the timber with a light sanding and good primer to increase longevity. Allow it to dry before covering with a coat of yellow and then black paint. When completely dry gently sand again, removing some of the black paint to reveal the contrasting yellow beneath. The planting focuses on warm and bright colours arranged in a relaxed style, which is enhanced by the black and yellow trough. *Tagetes* 'Cinnabar' mixed with *Setaria viridis* 'Rubra' steal the show, while at the base the sedum and echeveria provide additional colour and form. In contrast the relatively large foliage of *Limonium platyphyllum* helps anchor the open planting and provide substance to the display.

Cultivation and care

To ensure flowering lasts well into autumn, sow the setaria and tagetes in late spring. Prick out the young seedlings and grow on in modules until ready to plant into the container. Place crocks over the drainage holes and, using a soil-based compost that is free draining, informally arrange the taller plants towards the back and shorter plants nearer the front. After planting water to settle and then periodically, depending on weather conditions. No additional feeding is required but deadheading the tagetes will help prolong the flowering. When positioning your container be mindful that setaria self-seeds readily, so choose a terrace or an area with a hard surface to discourage future seedlings.

Plants

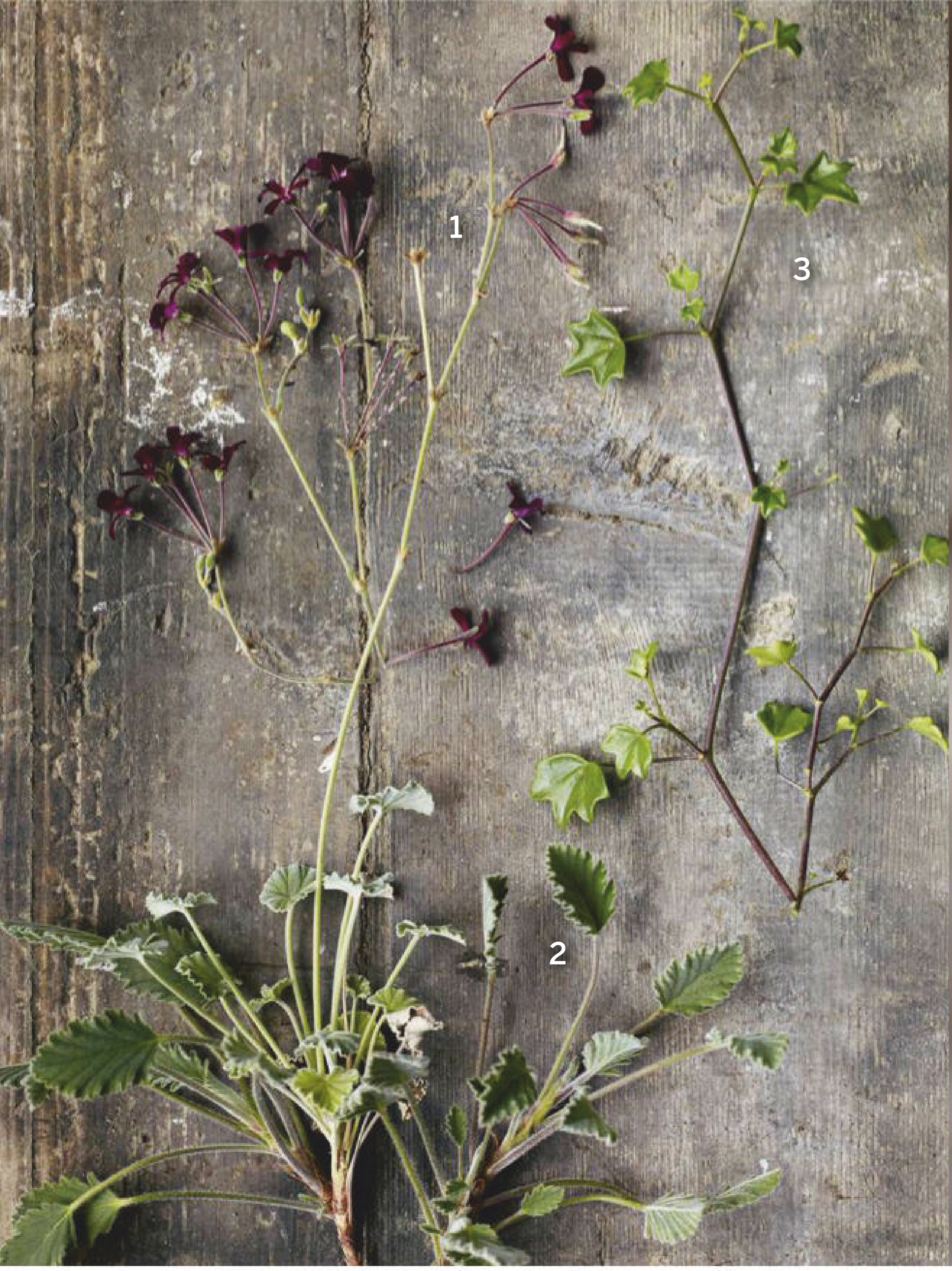
1 *Setaria viridis* 'Rubra'
An annual ornamental grass that is happy in most soils in full sun to part shade. 40cm. RHS H5.

2 *Tagetes* 'Cinnabar'
A half hardy annual that germinates easily from seed. 50cm. RHS H3.

3 *Sedum hybridum* 'Czar's Gold'
An excellent groundcover with scalloped leaves. 15cm. RHS H6.

4 *Limonium platyphyllum*
A hardy perennial with large, leathery leaves 60cm.
RHS H7, USDA 3a-9b.

5 *Echeveria* 'Chocolate'
Succulent with chocolate-coloured leaves that form tight rosettes. 10cm. RHS H2.



A SIMPLE CHARM

When I think of pelargoniums I instantly see bold vermilion flowers, cascading from window boxes. But look beyond these familiar plants towards the species pelargoniums and you find a world of sophistication and subtlety. This simple, rusted planter holds a charming trio with intricate foliage and flowers that require close inspection to be truly appreciated. Like their more showy relatives, they need little maintenance and continue to look good until winter arrives.

How to achieve the look

Container and composition

The container should be simple in shape and appearance and in scale with the plants. Weathered terracotta, galvanised metal or rusted steel complement the small pelargoniums and offer a semi-natural patina that improves with age. When choosing plants make sure they are compatible in their growing requirements, size and habit. Here the earlier flowering *Pelargonium* 'Renate Parsley' fills the main space with its semi-lateral habit, while *Pelargonium* 'Saxifragoides' trails down the side of the pot, lending a soft informality. Towards the back sits *Pelargonium sidoides*, more upright than the others, it continues to flower later in the year while catching the light with its small ruffled leaves.

Cultivation and care

Pot up the plants in a good-quality, peat-free potting mix. I would incorporate a handful of loam and grit to the mix to improve compost stability and drainage. Place the pot in a warm, sunny site that is free from frost, and which ideally has a little shade for part of the day. This will help prevent the display from overheating and drying out too quickly. Give a liquid feed every couple of weeks throughout the growing season and deadhead to keep plants looking their best. Take cuttings in midsummer to allow time for rooting, so that your young plants can overwinter successfully in a frost-free environment. The new plants can be used the following year and will perform with renewed vigour.

Plants

1 *Pelargonium sidoides*
A choice species with compact habit and soft, silver leaves that are rounded in shape. 25cm. AGM*. RHS H1C, USDA 10a-11b.

2 *Pelargonium* 'Renate Parsley'
A charming species hybrid with small, highly decorative leaves that form a silvery hummock. In summer, bicoloured flowers of blush red and pale pink appear on short stems. 10cm. AGM. RHS H1C.

3 *Pelargonium* 'Saxifragoides'
A delicate species hybrid with tiny, ivy-shaped leaves. Flowers in summer with pink flowers that are typical of the genus. 15cm. RHS H1C, USDA 10a-11b.

OLIVIER FILIPPI

The French dry gardening guru on learning from his mistakes, adapting to climate change and why the future of UK gardening may owe more to sculpture than to painting

WORDS STEPHANIE MAHON PORTRAIT CHARLIE HOPKINSON

Olivier Filippi is known as the dry gardening guru, a pioneer of drought-tolerant planting, and his nursery in France draws people from all over the world. Long before the phrase 'climate change' entered common parlance, this passionate plantsman and his wife, Clara, were looking to Mediterranean landscapes to offer a wholly different approach to gardening. "There is an obvious necessity in southern Europe to create gardens with no water consumption," he explains. "In the future, water won't be available to us."

It has been an unlikely career for a boy who grew up near Paris with no horticultural background. Dissatisfied with university, he quit his philosophy degree and began travelling around Europe, taking on seasonal work to survive. When he and Clara decided to live together and start a business in the South of France, they fell back on the one job he had done for an extended period – working in a nursery.

IN THE UK, AS SOON AS YOU HAVE A HEATWAVE, YOU HAVE A HOSEPIPE BAN. HOW WOULD YOU COPE WITH CONSTANT HEAT OF 35-40°C?

It was 1984, and to get started the couple rented a small plot and drove their wares around in an old van. "It was the beginning of a wonderful adventure. We were lucky enough to know nothing, so it seemed that anything was possible. We should have failed. We had many problems – either we missed the growing conditions and the plants died, or we had a beautiful batch but didn't have customers. But we learned from our mistakes."

The couple also began travelling, and were captivated by Mediterranean landscapes. "We decided we wanted to grow the plants we loved in the landscape, whatever it took, even if it led to us closing the nursery. The idea is fashionable now, but then no one was interested in native Mediterranean species adapted to dry gardens. We started with a small range, and showed it around flower shows and markets and nobody would buy a single plant." He laughs wryly at the memory. "It was what I call our 'walking through the desert' period." They held on, he says, because of the intimate pleasure of the miracle of propagation. "When everything fails and suddenly something works, it is a huge gift and you are extremely happy."

Over the past 30 years, he and Clara have honed their propagation skills on 100 botanical trips across the Mediterranean and Mediterranean climate zones. From Crete to Cyprus, Syria to Sardinia, they study or collect plants, sometimes in their special van equipped with a tiny propagation lab, fridge and solar panels. In this way, they discover species new to horticulture and bring them home to Mèze to trial and propagate as possible new garden plants.

They are aided in this by an informal research group, working around the Mediterranean and elsewhere, which includes botanists, ecologists and landscape designers, such as James and Helen Basson and Thomas Doxiadis. This network is focused on the link between the landscape, human history and the future of gardens. "The Mediterranean is a totally man-made landscape," Olivier explains, "And as such it's an immediate model for gardens, because it's artificial and beautiful. It's also extremely resilient through a long history of disturbances – whatever happens, from fire to erosion to overgrazing, it always comes back, cycle after cycle." There are at least 25,000 drought-tolerant species in the Mediterranean, he says, which is one-tenth of the world's flora. "How many of these thousands of plants are grown in cultivation?" he asks. "Maybe a couple of hundred. So there is a lot to do."

His new book, *Bringing the Mediterranean Into Your Garden*, does exactly what it says on the tin, giving an idea of this aesthetic and what a drought-tolerant garden looks like. "It is totally different from an English garden," he says. "The first thing is that you have to forget about flowers in summer. We focus on foliage and the diversity of texture and scent, and play with evergreen material, which covers the ground all the time, at different heights from low groundcover to high mounding plants. You have to consider the garden as a sculpture, not a painting."

How relevant is this approach to our own green and pleasant land? "It will be relevant for your grandchildren," he says. "In the UK, as soon as you have a little heatwave, you have a hosepipe ban right away. Then a lawn or a mixed border is able to survive for maybe three weeks or a month, but not two to four months' drought, with constant heat of 35-40°C, like we have. This is a projection of what you'll have in between 50 to 100 years' time."

To illustrate his point, at the recent Society of Garden Designers conference in London he showed delegates an image of a lawn in Hyde Park. "Imagine this scene without a single square metre of grass," he challenged them. "What will that look like? What will you do with the open space in summer, the baked soil? These are the questions we deal with, and you will have to deal with in due time." □

USEFUL INFORMATION

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jardin-sec.com

•Olivier Filippi's *Bringing the Mediterranean Into Your Garden: How to Capture the Natural Beauty of the Mediterranean Garrigue* is published Filbert Press priced £40. His first book, *Dry Gardening Handbook,* has been also been reissued by Filbert Press, £40.

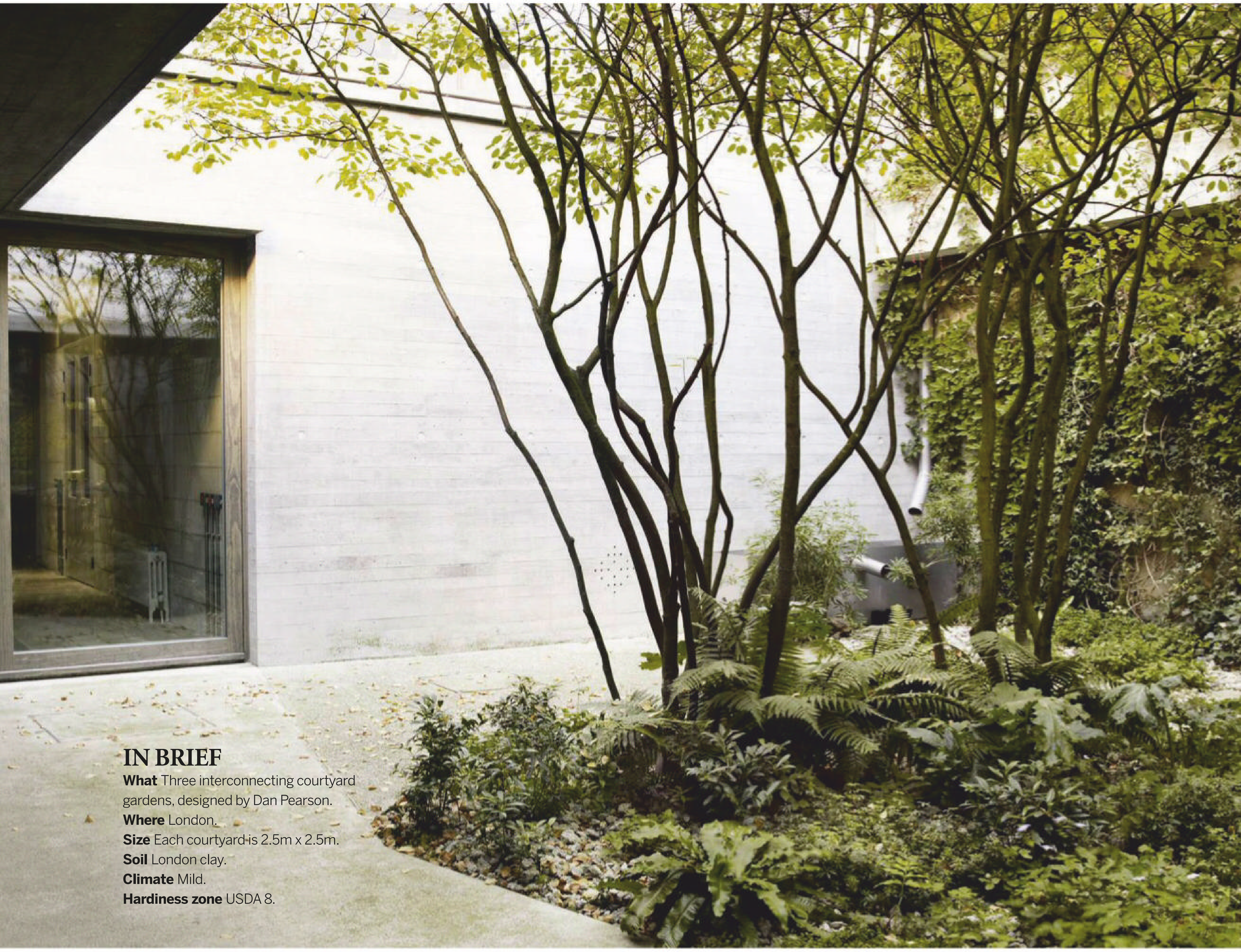
By imagining how planting might have evolved had nature been allowed to reclaim the concrete studio of photographer Juergen Teller, Dan Pearson has created three timeless courtyard gardens that offer a wild twist on Asian design ideas and perfectly complement the modern interiors of this former industrial shed in west London

Wild ideas

WORDS ALYS FOWLER PHOTOGRAPHS ANDREW MONTGOMERY

Below left Dan Pearson's design for the London studio of German photographer Juergen Teller, features three enclosed courtyard gardens that act as pools of green light, becoming increasingly greener and wilder as you progress through the building. Full height glass doors mean once inside the studio you can see all but the final, hidden courtyard.

Below right In the first courtyard two multi-stemmed *Amelanchier lamarckii* provide interest from spring to autumn. The understorey is planted up with *Dryopteris wallichiana*, *Asplenium scolopendrium* and *Geranium nodosum*, which thrives even in very dry shade.



IN BRIEF

What Three interconnecting courtyard gardens, designed by Dan Pearson.
Where London.
Size Each courtyard is 2.5m x 2.5m.
Soil London clay.
Climate Mild.
Hardiness zone USDA 8.

You could be forgiven for walking straight past the studio of art and fashion photographer Juergen Teller. The building sits on a quiet west London street, and its grey cast concrete exterior does little to attract your attention. A second glance, however, at its restrained use of detail tells you it's going to have good bones inside, but what you're probably not expecting is for it to house such remarkable gardens.

The interiors are the work of 6a architects. The London-based practice has opened out what was once an industrial shed that ran the entire width and breadth of its long, thin site, to create an achingly cool space. At the front is Juergen's office, followed by a cavernous studio space, which acts like a gallery. In the middle is an open kitchen and at the back a private workspace. Even though the whole building is wedged between two houses it is quiet, airy and bathed in light that floods in from three interior courtyards, which act like light boxes – a nice conceit for a photographer. It is these three glass boxes where garden designer Dan Pearson and his studio gets to play.

Over the years Dan has collaborated with 6a architects on several projects, developing a great relationship with the practice and he was brought in early on this project. "It was important to all of us that this was a sensitive intervention that preserved the history of the place," says Dan. "Elements, such as the walls in the courtyards, which aren't exactly beautiful but are honest, have been left to embed that sense of place." Dan has clothed these elements in an elegant, pared-back planting plan that allows just the right glimpse of the building's past. He's also reused broken concrete saved from the building both as paving and as a mulch between the plants. It's a small but brilliant detail – playfully recycling history; the plants look like they're reclaiming the light boxes, growing out of the rubble, filtering the industrial past for a cleaner future.

"I wanted to create a progression as you go deeper into the building," says Dan. "So, as you get to the back where it becomes ▷

Below left The groundcover, *Eurybia divaricata* has a spreading habit, so is best used where it can elegantly sprawl.

Below middle In the second courtyard Dan has used several rough-leaved hydrangeas, including *Hydrangea aspera* Kawakamii Group, to create a dramatic scale with foliage. Its large leaves offer interest throughout the summer, but it comes into its own in autumn when it offers large lacecap flowers.

Below right *Anemone* x *hybrida* 'Honorine Jobert' will flower throughout later summer and into autumn. It is happy in part shade in reasonably moist soil, and is perfect for lightening up a dark corner.

▷ more private, you get a sense of seclusion. Part of our thinking was to imagine what would happen if we'd left the building for 30 years. How would it look?" As you move away from the street, the courtyards become both greener and a little wilder and the city recedes further until you are in an entirely private courtyard thick with lush tropical planting. "In China I was introduced to the idea of rain-patter gardens," says Dan. "I wanted the final courtyard to be truly sensual. You can open the glass door and allow the sound of rain on the leaves of *Tetrapanax papyrifer* 'Rex' to flood the room."

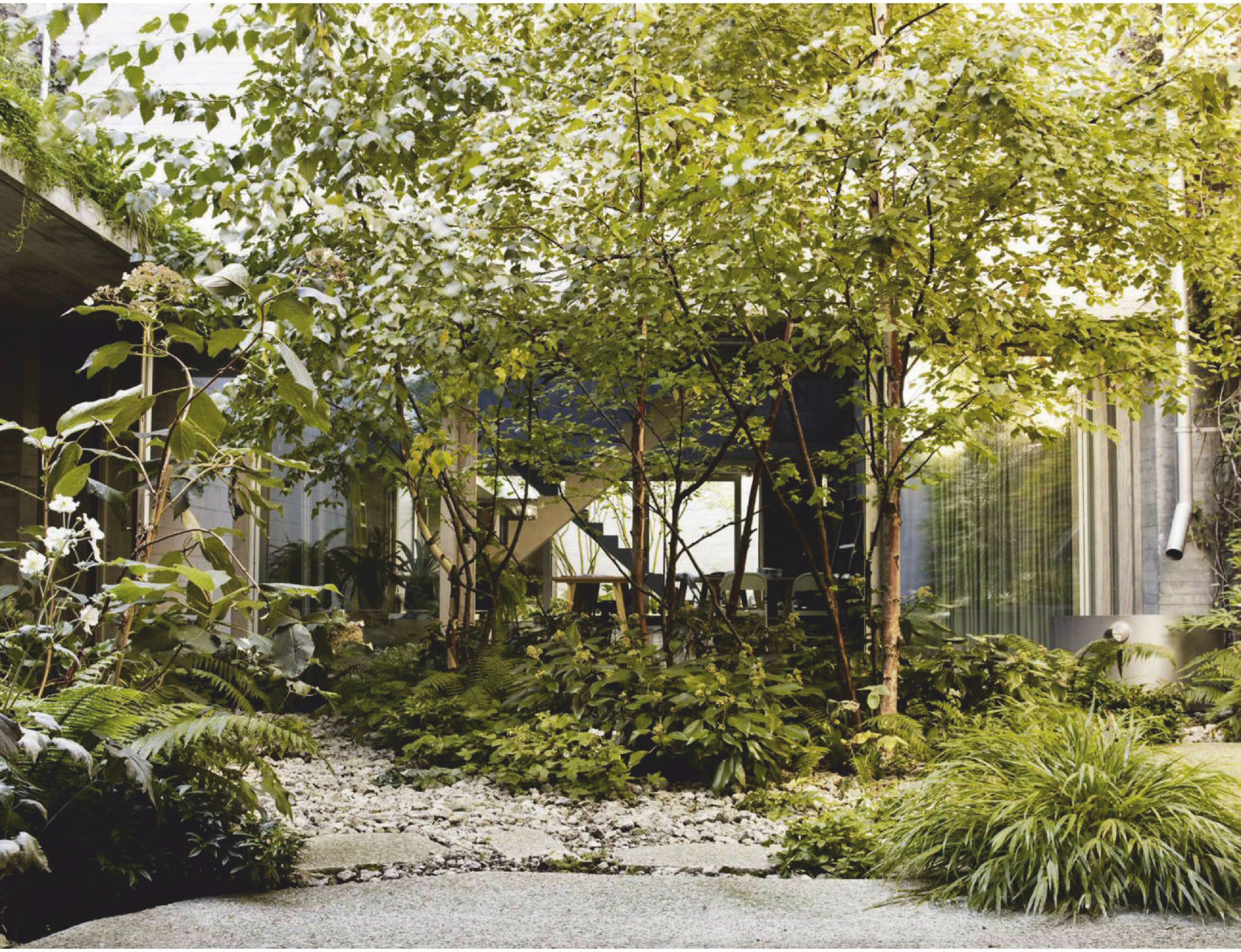
Light is another hugely important element. "We thought a lot about creating a design that would reflect light from the foliage," explains Dan. "We wanted to create a soft light that changes according to whether the sun is in or out." Once in the building you can look down and view all but the final, hidden courtyard. The courtyards act as living screens, meaning you are not quite aware of what lies beyond, enticing you to explore further into the building. They play with light through the day and through the seasons, bringing a dynamism to the Brutalist architecture and the naturalistic planting plan – covered walkways are festooned with wild meadow green roofs – softens the austere nature of so much concrete.

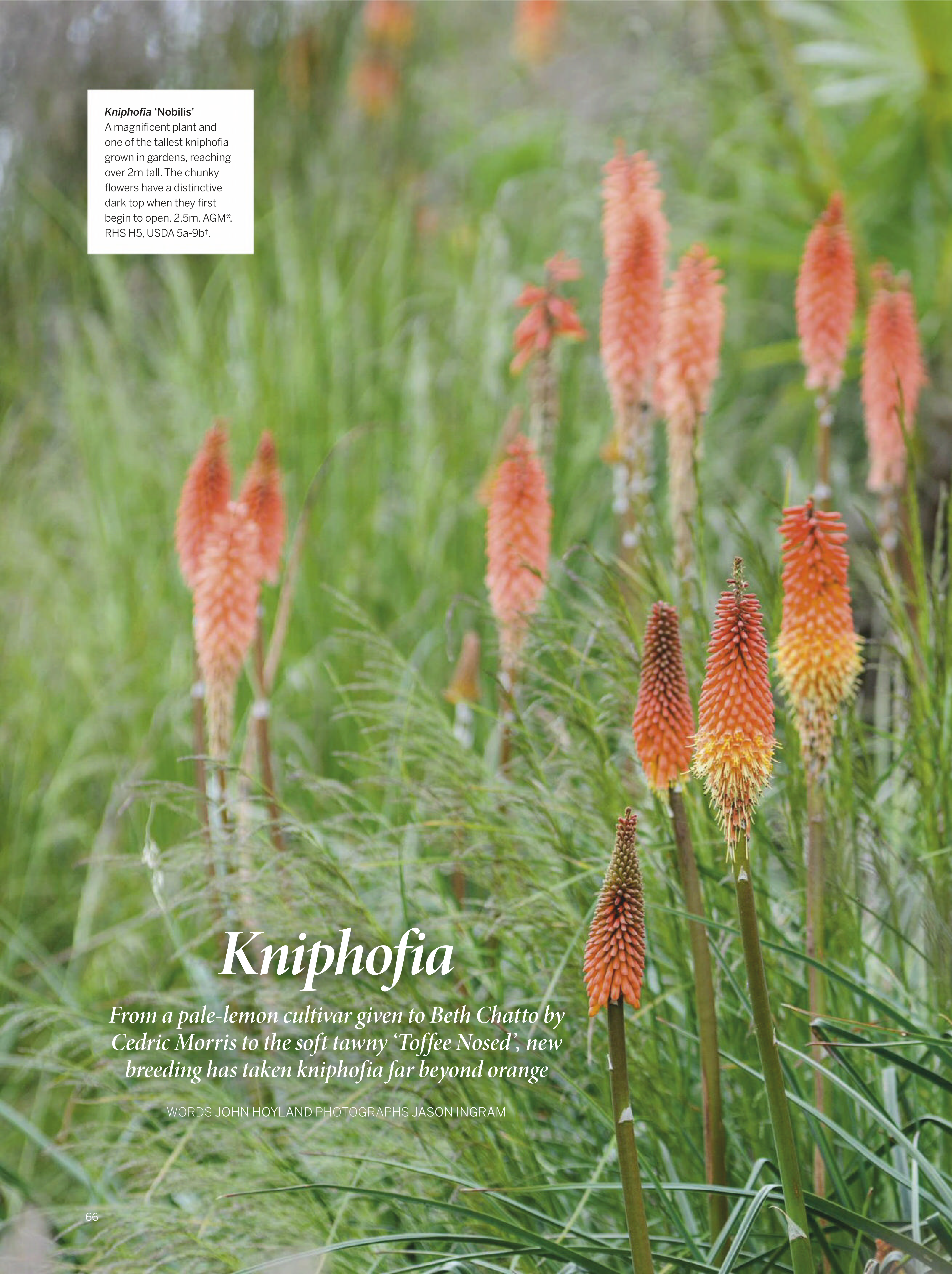
These courtyards feel distinctly modern and yet also timeless. This is perhaps testament to the time Dan has spent in Japan as they certainly reference those Japanese courtyard gardens known as *tsubo-niwa*, where the garden is contained inside a building, like a jewel within a box. These three-dimensional spaces are like a vessel for the senses; the soft light, the pattering of rain on leaves, the heady scent of plants in flower, such as the *Holboellia coriacea* in spring, *Trachelospermum jasminoides* in summer and *Sarcococca hookeriana* var. *digyna* 'Purple Stem' in winter, are all there to entice nature into the building. Juergen Teller is a very lucky man. □

USEFUL INFORMATION
Find out more about Dan's work at **danpearsonstudio.com**

Below left In the final courtyard, the huge leaves of *Tetrapanax papyrifer* 'Rex' remain evergreen giving this private space a lush, tropical feel. It is underplanted with *Dryopteris wallichiana* and a silvery leaved *Pulmonaria saccharata* 'Leopard', which helps to reflect light back into the room.

Below right The second courtyard is dominated by two *Betula nigra*, chosen for their particularly beautiful trunks in winter, which are underplanted with *Hydrangea aspera* Kawakamii Group and ferns such as *Dryopteris wallichiana*. In the foreground, the shade-tolerant Japanese forest grass *Hakonechloa macra* softens the concrete.





***Kniphofia* 'Nobilis'**
A magnificent plant and one of the tallest kniphofia grown in gardens, reaching over 2m tall. The chunky flowers have a distinctive dark top when they first begin to open. 2.5m. AGM*. RHS H5, USDA 5a-9b†.

Kniphofia

From a pale-lemon cultivar given to Beth Chatto by Cedric Morris to the soft tawny 'Toffee Nosed', new breeding has taken kniphofia far beyond orange

WORDS JOHN HOYLAND PHOTOGRAPHS JASON INGRAM

However skilled and creative we are with our planting schemes, the artifice of the garden can never compare with the majesty of plants growing in the wild. On a trip to South Africa I was awestruck by the sight of hundreds of incandescent flower spikes glowing in the evening light. They were the flowers of *Kniphofia*, the aptly named red hot poker, and on that visit, I saw many more species, some with pale-lemon flowers, some soft pink but most with the vibrant orange with which the plant is most associated. Seeing them in their native habitat opened my eyes to the splendour of the genus and how wonderful they might look in a garden setting if grown among grasses and other southern hemisphere plants rather than the tatty clumps I remember from the suburban gardens of my childhood.

The plant that first grabbed my attention was *Kniphofia rooperi*, and it remains one of my favourites. The bright-orange flowers are globular rather than elliptical, about the size of a tennis ball. It flowers in September and October, and I grow mine among the deep-blue flowers of *Aconitum carmichaelii* 'Arendsii'. Both plants look stunning bathed in the golden light of autumn. Breeders were initially slow to produce new cultivars and hybrids but there are now dozens available. As well as the usual red and orange bicolour flowers, cultivars have been bred with flowers that range from pale cream to bright lemon, from soft pink to deep red, and in sizes that span 45cm tall to giants that reach 2.5m.

At the delicate end of the scale, *K.* 'Little Maid' has creamy white flowers in July and August and narrow, grassy foliage. It was raised by Beth Chatto in the 1970s from seeds given to her by Cedric Morris. Its elegant appearance has made it a popular plant but it will only thrive in mild and dry areas. Perhaps the most striking member of the family is *K.* 'Nobilis', which, at over 2m tall, is a fantastic sight in gardens large enough to accommodate it. The flowers have a distinctive hat of pendulous buds. Some nurseries sell it as *K. uvaria* 'Nobilis' and for many years it was sold as *K.* 'Prince Igor', which is in fact a shorter plant with the typical elliptical-shaped flower.

The similarity of so many cultivars can be confusing. The late writer and plantsman Christopher Lloyd used to tell the story of asking a nurseryman the difference between two similar cultivars and getting the answer "a shilling". With some *Kniphofia* hybrids the difference between them is so marginal that it might only be price that sets them apart, although now far more than a shilling. *K.* 'Gladness', for example, and *K.* 'Bees Sunset' are, to my eye at least, indistinguishable. In the garden, kniphofias are as at home in traditional mixed borders as they are in more contemporary prairie-style planting schemes, and the good winter drainage of gravel gardens provides ideal conditions for many. The chunky foliage and thick stems of *K. caulescens*, which would suffer in wet situations, is an ideal candidate for gravel gardens. Grown in isolation it is an imposing plant.

The strong vertical line of *Kniphofia* stems are natural companions to grasses, and I have seen a splendid group of *Panicum virgatum* 'Heavy Metal' threaded among clumps of pale-yellow kniphofias, where the glaucous sheen of the grass almost reflected the bright light of the pokers. The tropical look of kniphofias lend themselves to exotic gardens where their fiery colours are best seen against the foliage of dark-leaved cannas. They are an obvious element to hot borders along with dahlias and vibrant crocosmias, but kniphofias are companionable plants that look equally at home with pale achilleas and pastel-coloured phlox. However you grow them, make sure you plant them in large numbers so as to hint at how splendid they look in the wild. ❑

• Author John Hoyland is a plantsman and garden writer. His recommendations for the best kniphofias can be found over the next five pages.

The Eden Project
The best place to see kniphofias in Britain is at the Eden Project in Cornwall, which holds the National Collection. The collection, which includes more than 100 cultivars and 20 species, was established by the outdoor gardening team led by Julie Kendall, above.
edenproject.com

PLANT PROFILE

What A genus of about 70 species of mainly evergreen perennial plants with hundreds of cultivars and hybrids. They are grown for their spikes of brightly coloured flowers.

Origins All species are found in areas of high rainfall in eastern and southern Africa, with the vast majority occurring in South Africa.

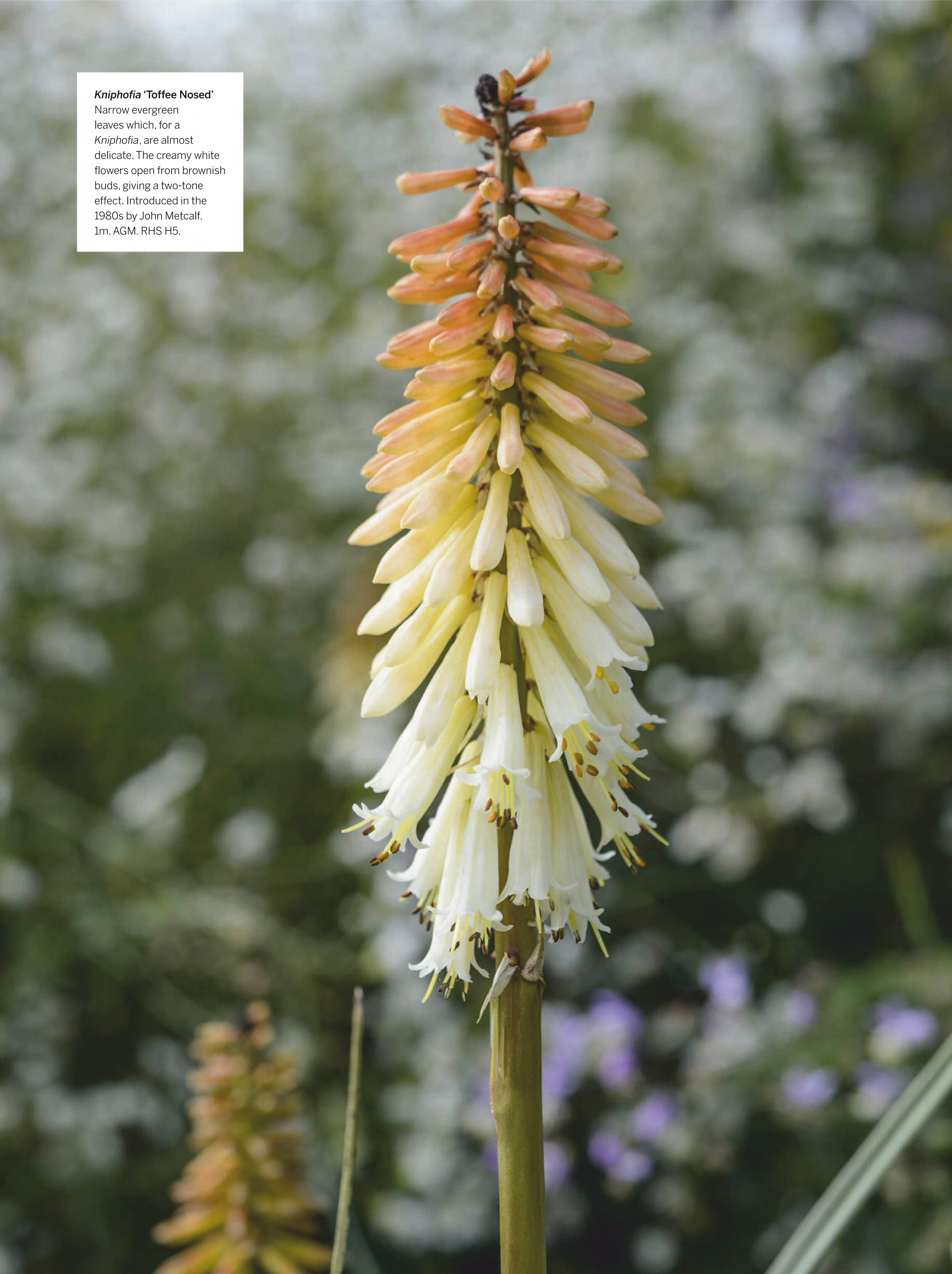
Season Flowering from April to October; most forms flower in midsummer.

Size From 45cm-2.5m tall.

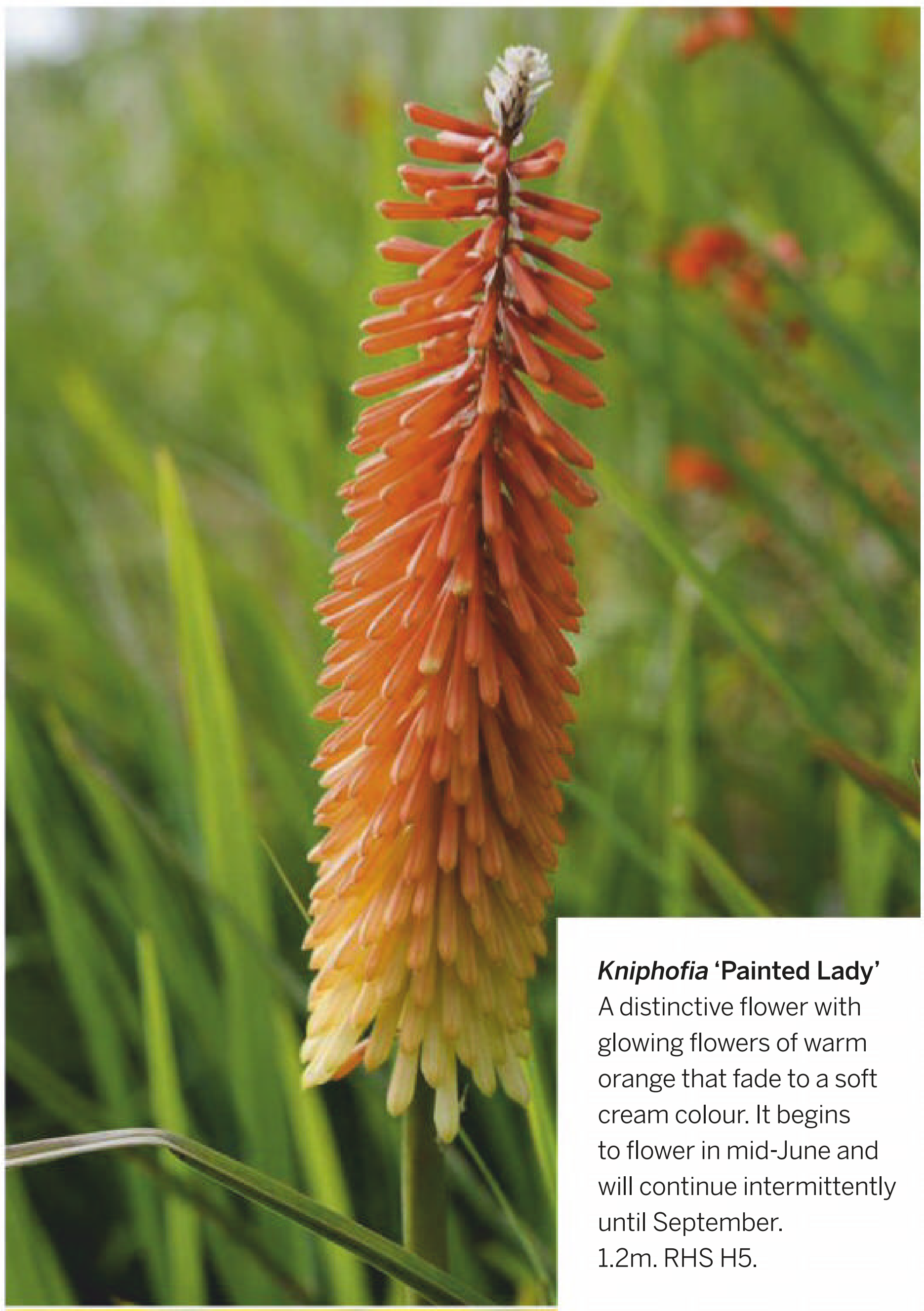
Conditions Moist soil that drains well in the winter and an open, sunny situation are ideal. Established plants can tolerate periods of drought.

Hardiness Except in very wet areas most are hardy throughout Britain. A few need protection from winter cold and wet.
RHS H4-6. USDA5a-9b.

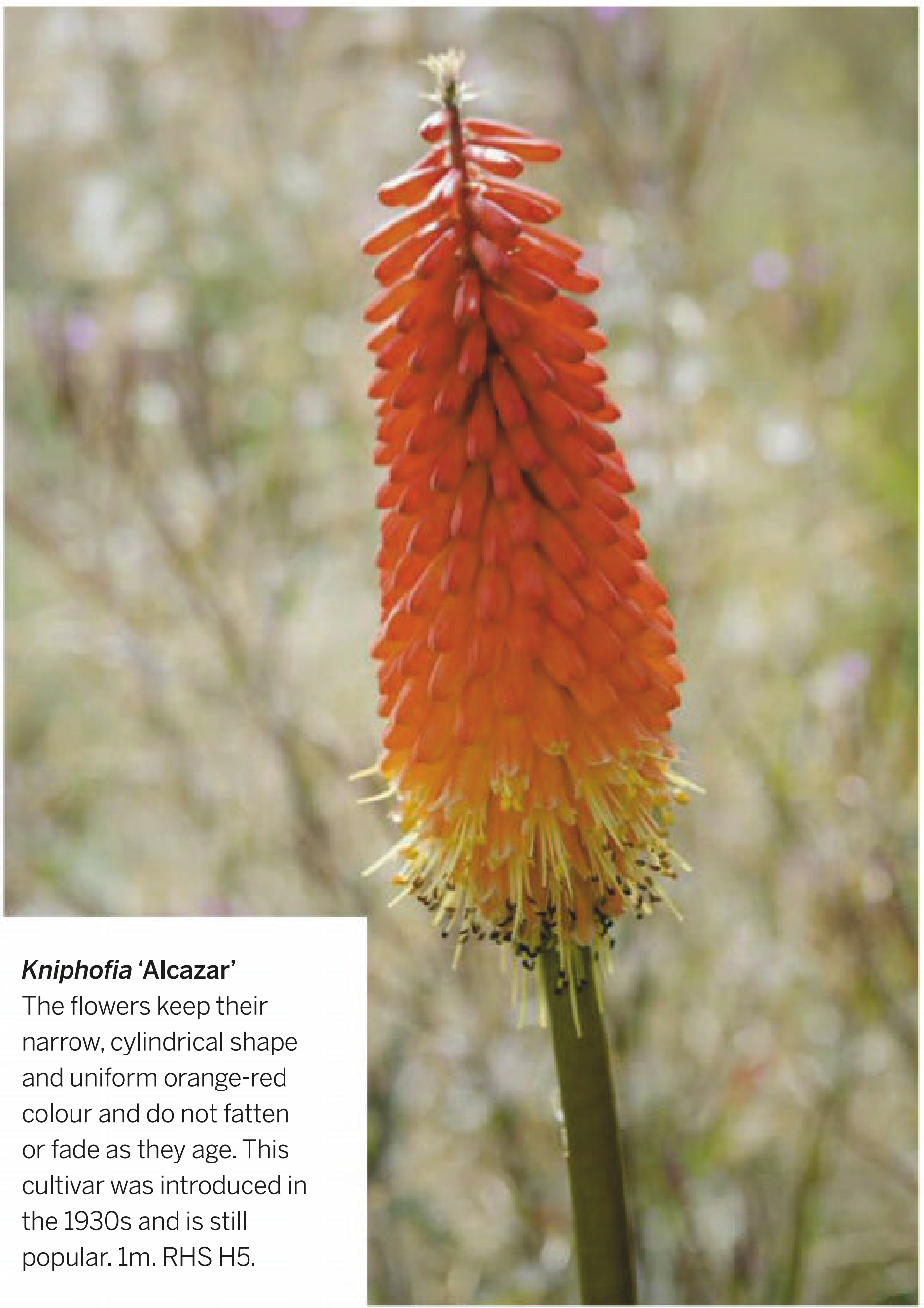
*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
†Hardiness ratings given where available.



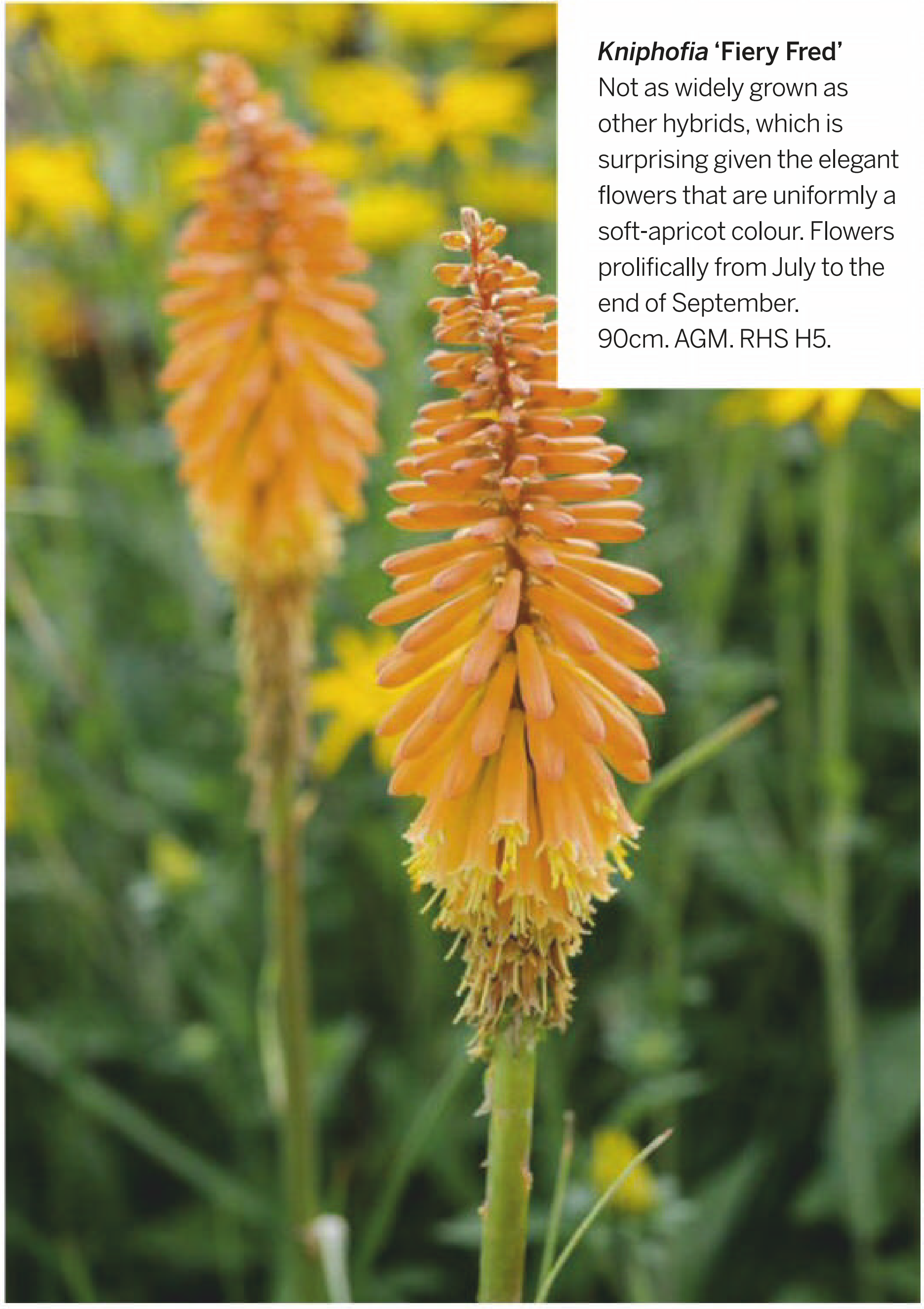
***Kniphofia* 'Toffee Nosed'** Narrow evergreen leaves which, for a *Kniphofia*, are almost delicate. The creamy white flowers open from brownish buds, giving a two-tone effect. Introduced in the 1980s by John Metcalf. 1m. AGM. RHS H5.



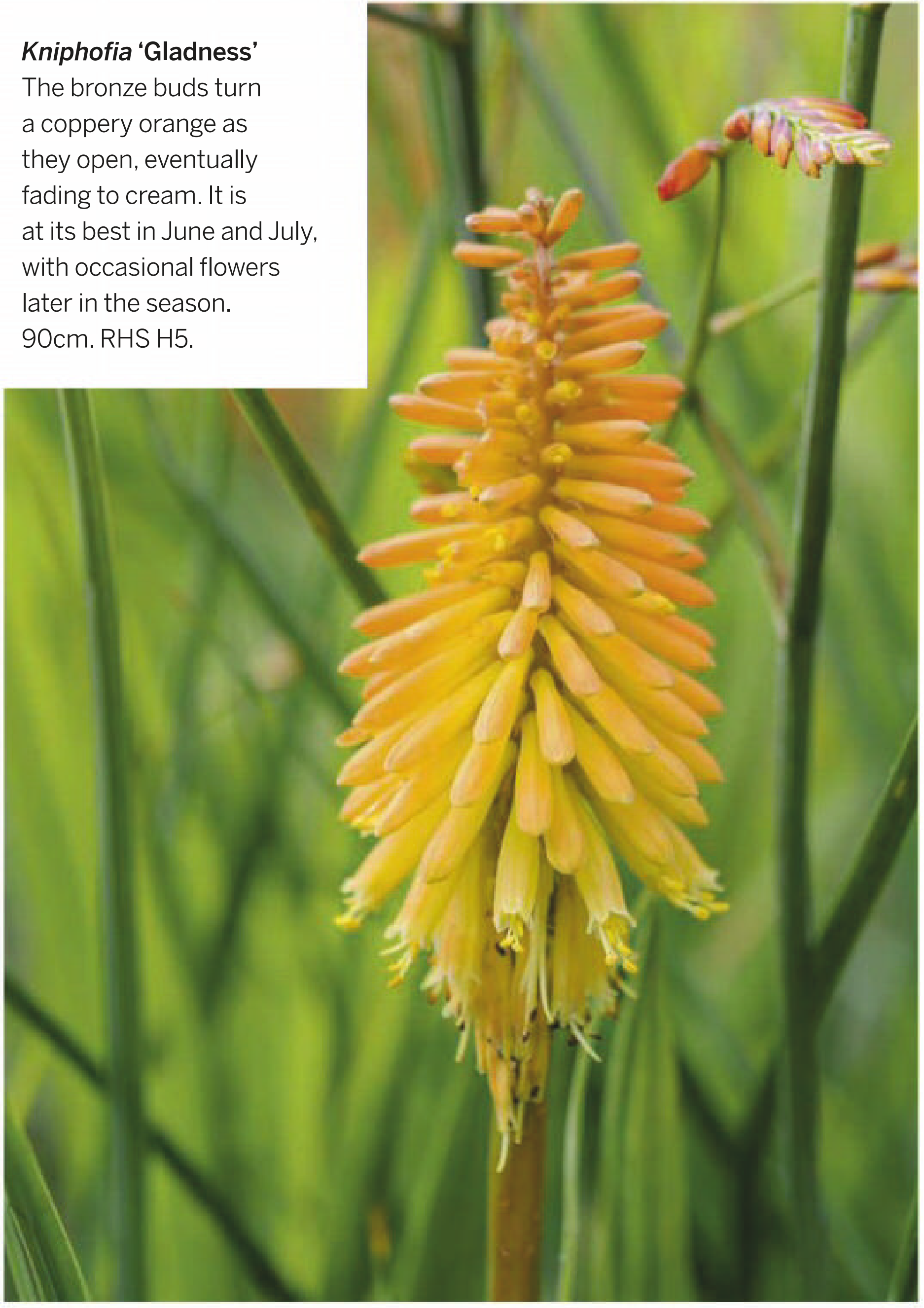
***Kniphofia* 'Painted Lady'**
A distinctive flower with glowing flowers of warm orange that fade to a soft cream colour. It begins to flower in mid-June and will continue intermittently until September.
1.2m. RHS H5.



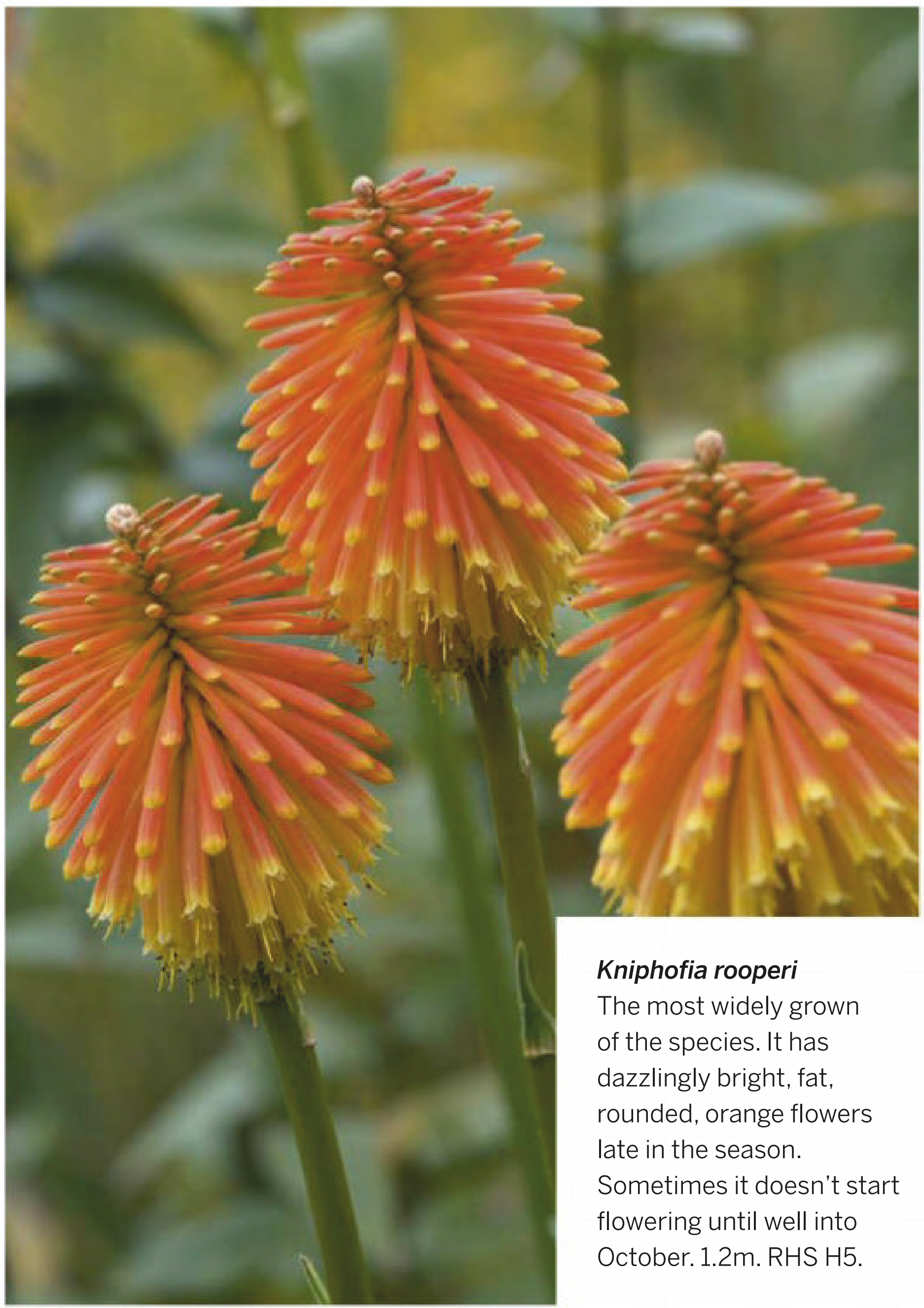
***Kniphofia* 'Alcazar'**
The flowers keep their narrow, cylindrical shape and uniform orange-red colour and do not fatten or fade as they age. This cultivar was introduced in the 1930s and is still popular. 1m. RHS H5.



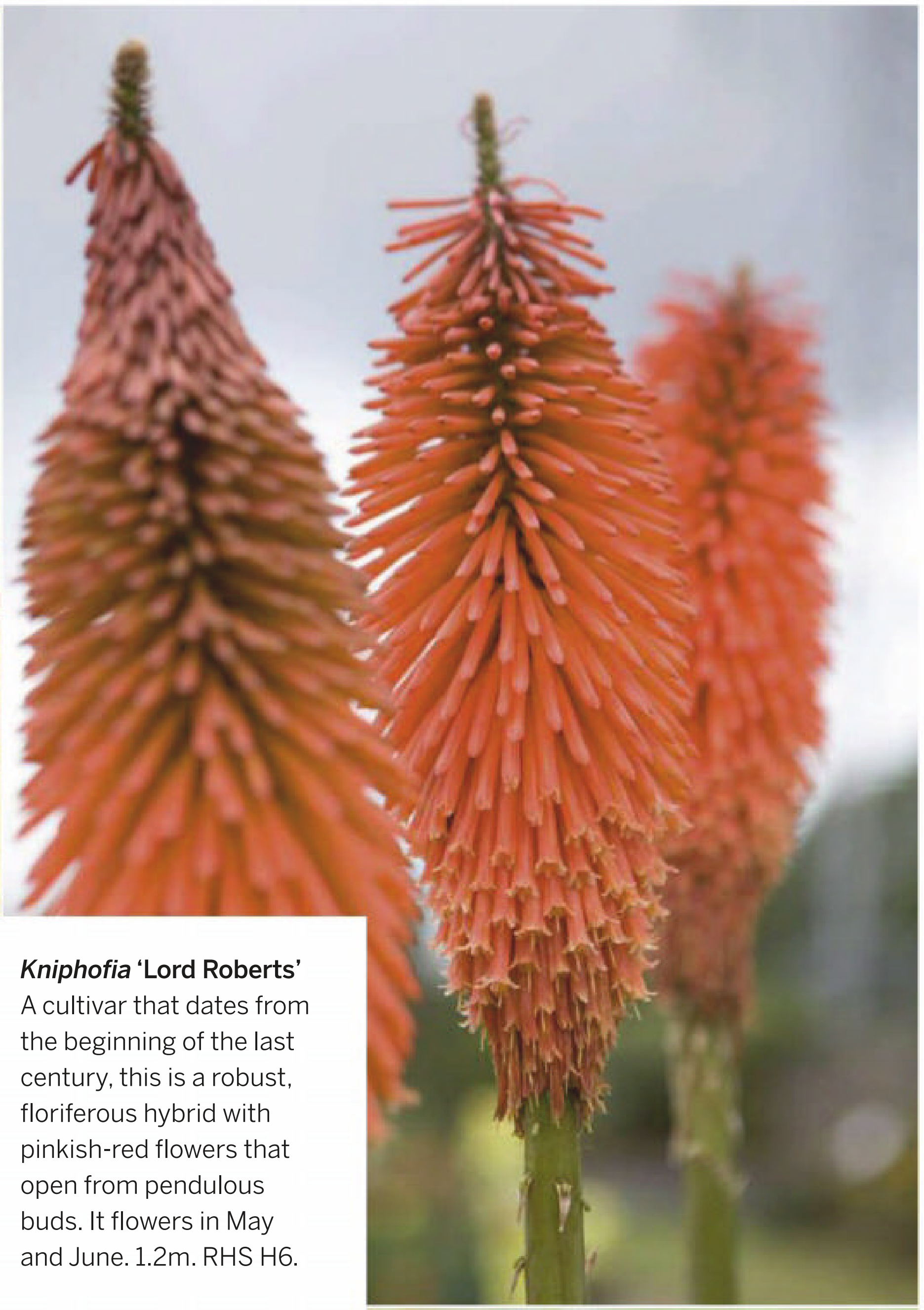
***Kniphofia* 'Fiery Fred'**
Not as widely grown as other hybrids, which is surprising given the elegant flowers that are uniformly a soft-apricot colour. Flowers prolifically from July to the end of September.
90cm. AGM. RHS H5.



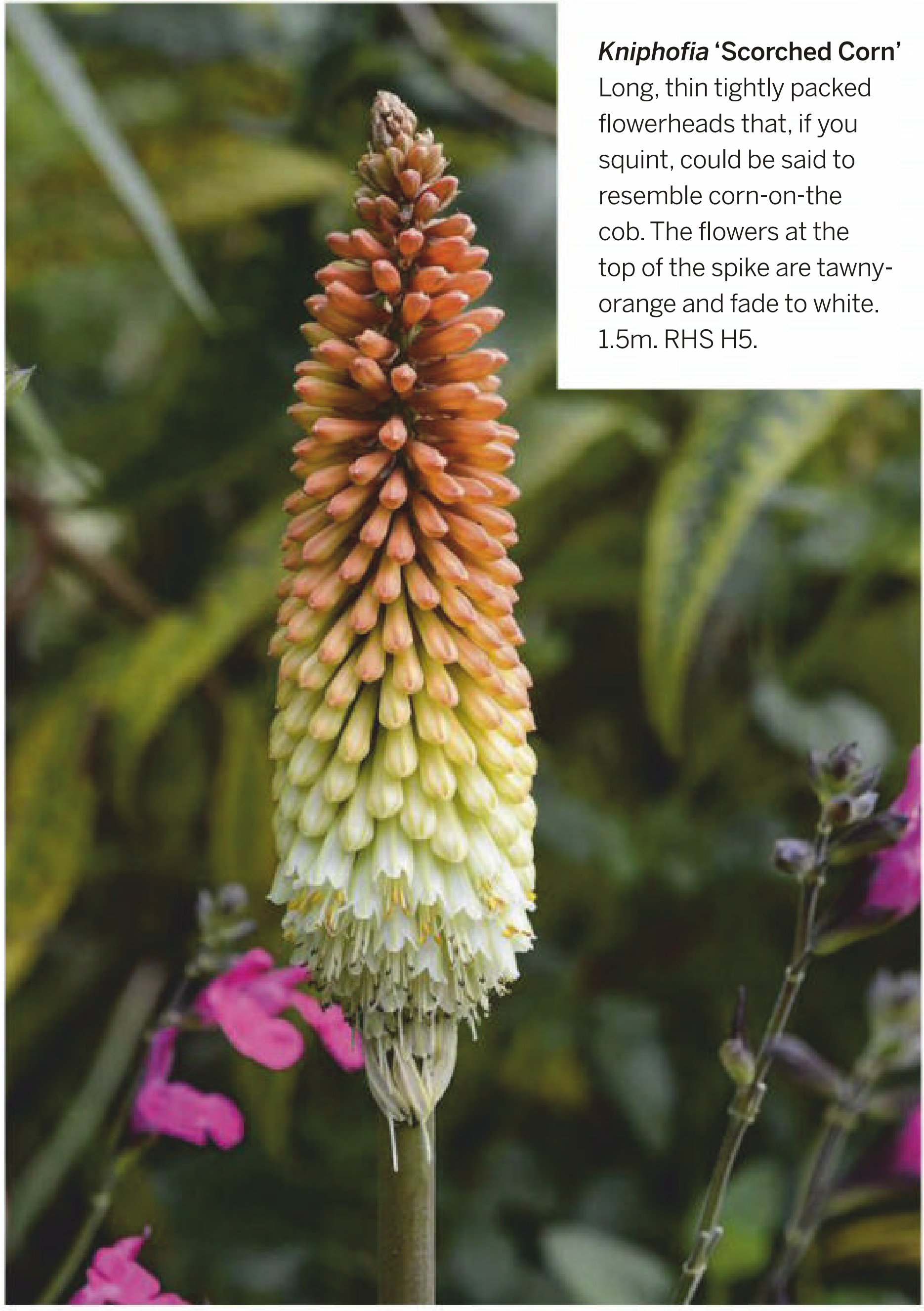
***Kniphofia* 'Gladness'**
The bronze buds turn a coppery orange as they open, eventually fading to cream. It is at its best in June and July, with occasional flowers later in the season.
90cm. RHS H5.



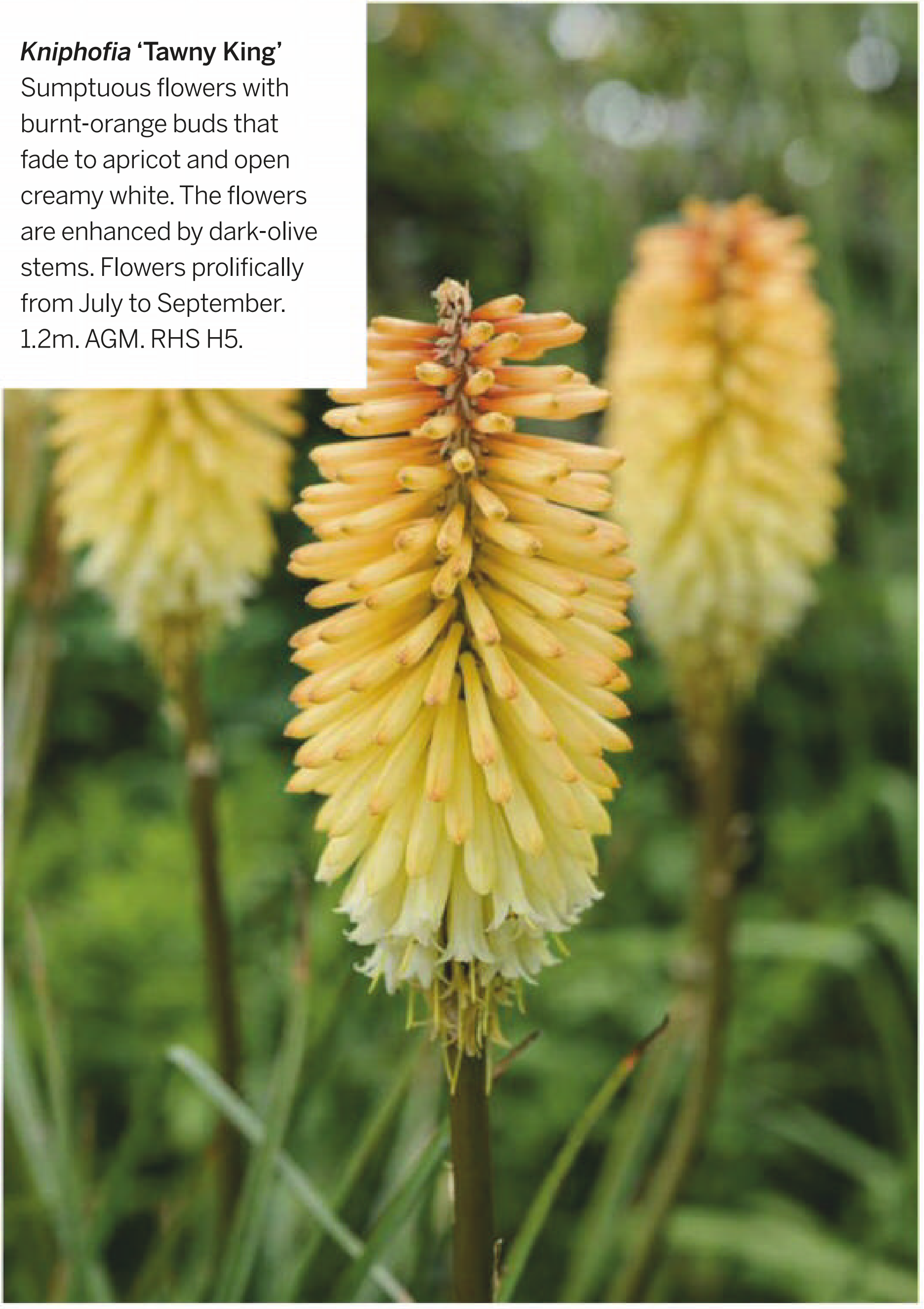
Kniphofia rooperi
The most widely grown of the species. It has dazzlingly bright, fat, rounded, orange flowers late in the season. Sometimes it doesn't start flowering until well into October. 1.2m. RHS H5.



***Kniphofia* 'Lord Roberts'**
A cultivar that dates from the beginning of the last century, this is a robust, floriferous hybrid with pinkish-red flowers that open from pendulous buds. It flowers in May and June. 1.2m. RHS H6.

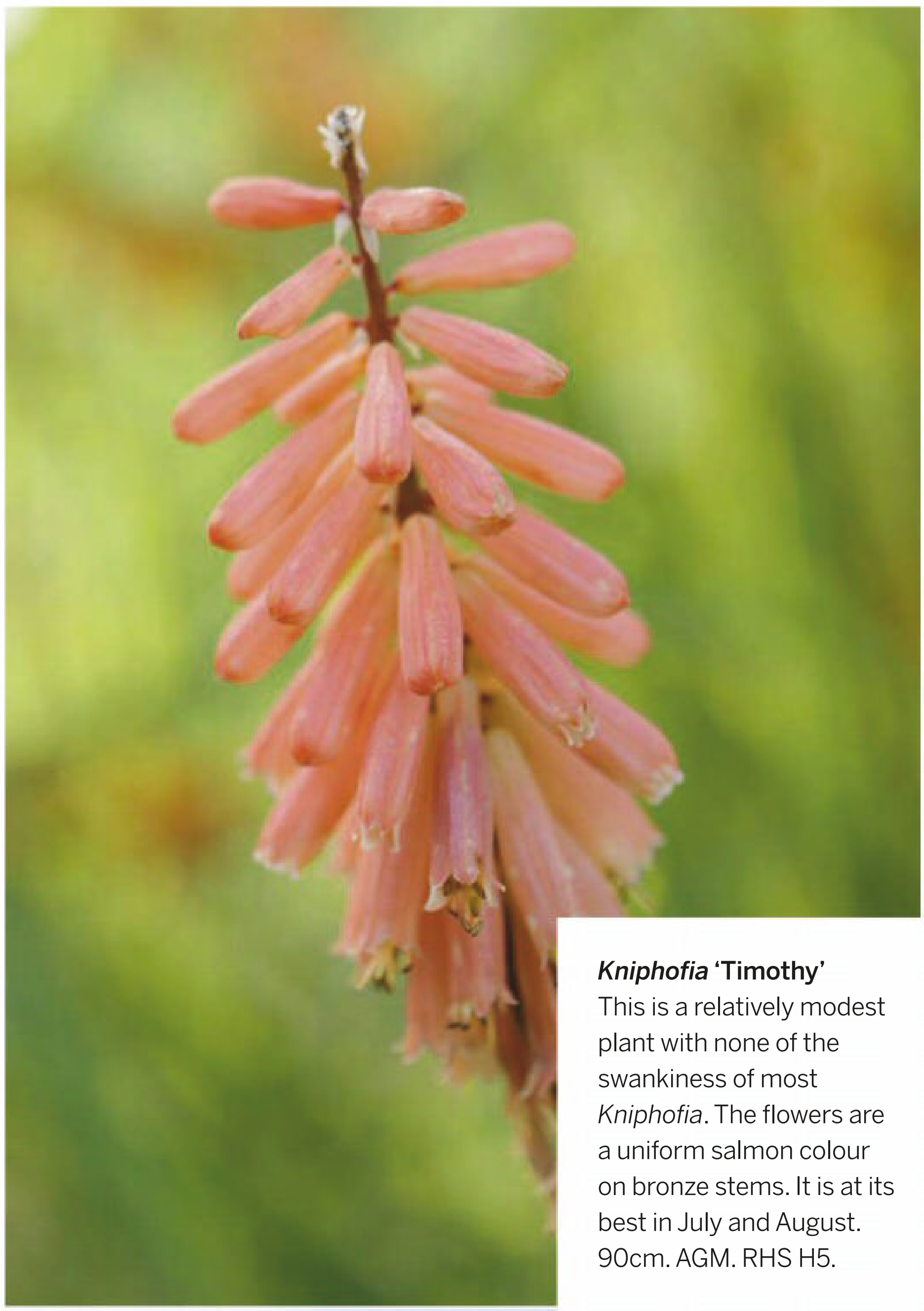


***Kniphofia* 'Scorched Corn'**
Long, thin tightly packed flowerheads that, if you squint, could be said to resemble corn-on-the cob. The flowers at the top of the spike are tawny-orange and fade to white. 1.5m. RHS H5.

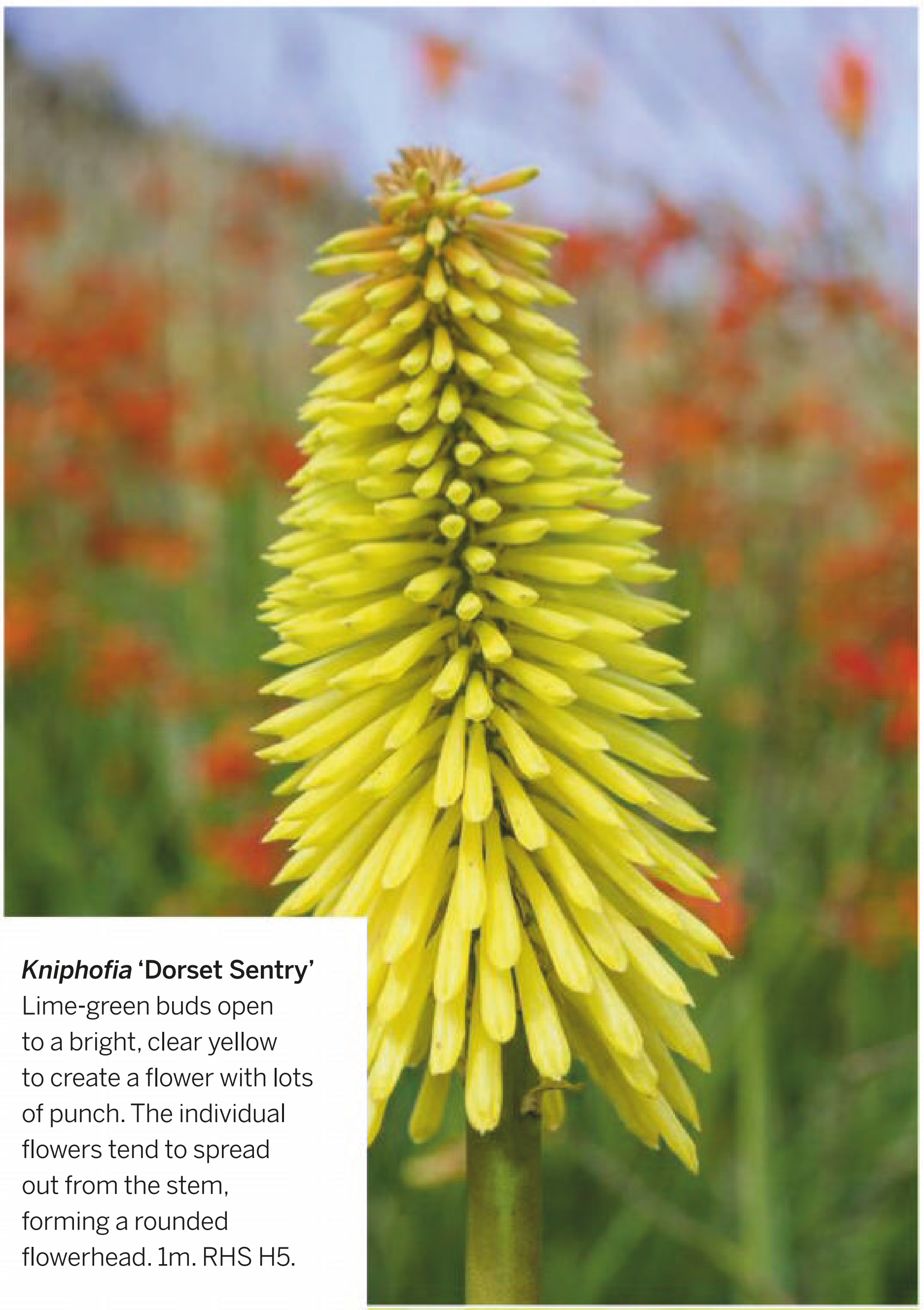


***Kniphofia* 'Tawny King'**
Sumptuous flowers with burnt-orange buds that fade to apricot and open creamy white. The flowers are enhanced by dark-olive stems. Flowers prolifically from July to September. 1.2m. AGM. RHS H5.

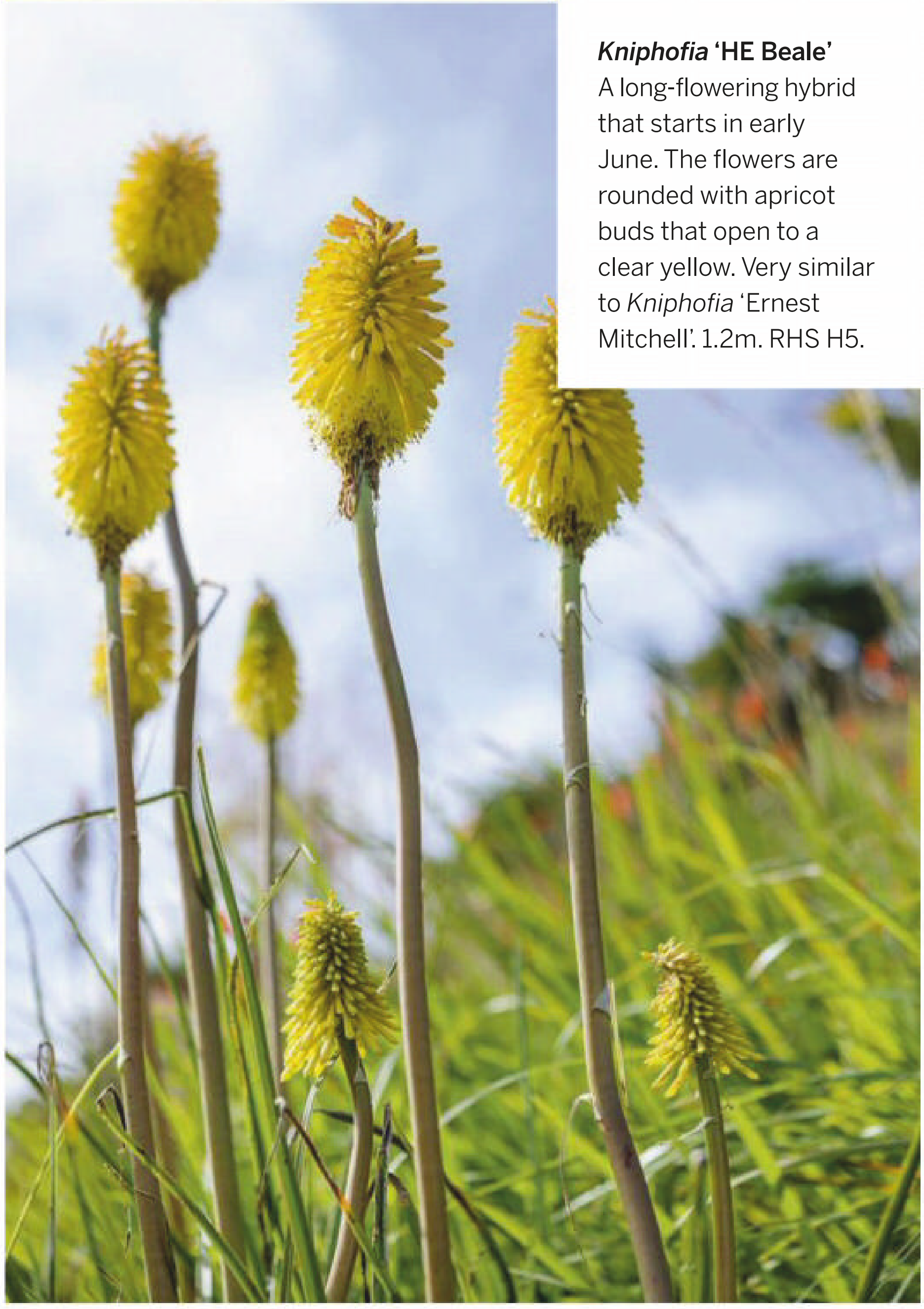
TORIE CHUGG, SARAH CUTTLE / GAP PHOTOS



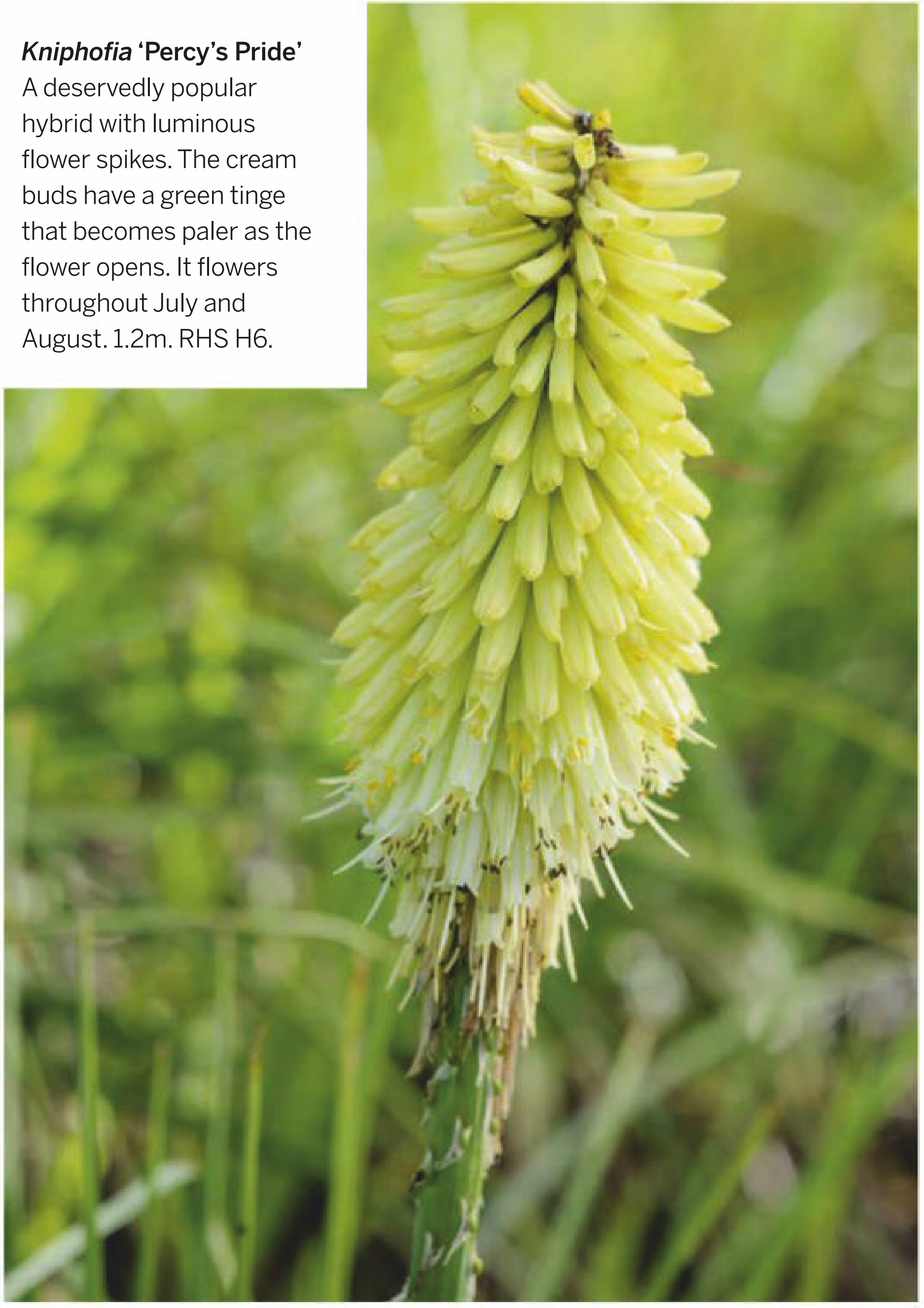
***Kniphofia* 'Timothy'**
This is a relatively modest plant with none of the swankiness of most *Kniphofia*. The flowers are a uniform salmon colour on bronze stems. It is at its best in July and August. 90cm. AGM. RHS H5.



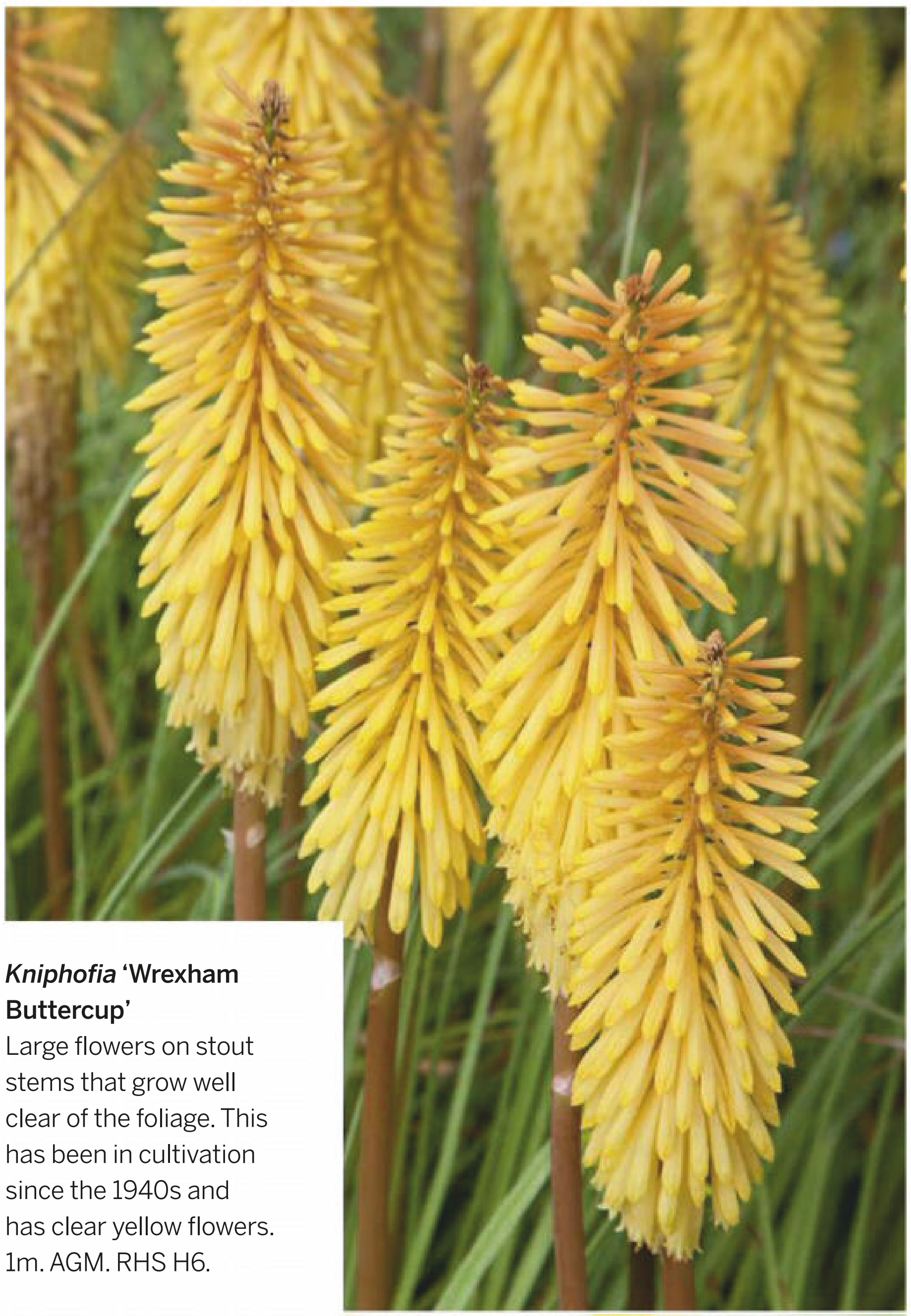
***Kniphofia* 'Dorset Sentry'**
Lime-green buds open to a bright, clear yellow to create a flower with lots of punch. The individual flowers tend to spread out from the stem, forming a rounded flowerhead. 1m. RHS H5.



***Kniphofia* 'HE Beale'**
A long-flowering hybrid that starts in early June. The flowers are rounded with apricot buds that open to a clear yellow. Very similar to *Kniphofia* 'Ernest Mitchell'. 1.2m. RHS H5.

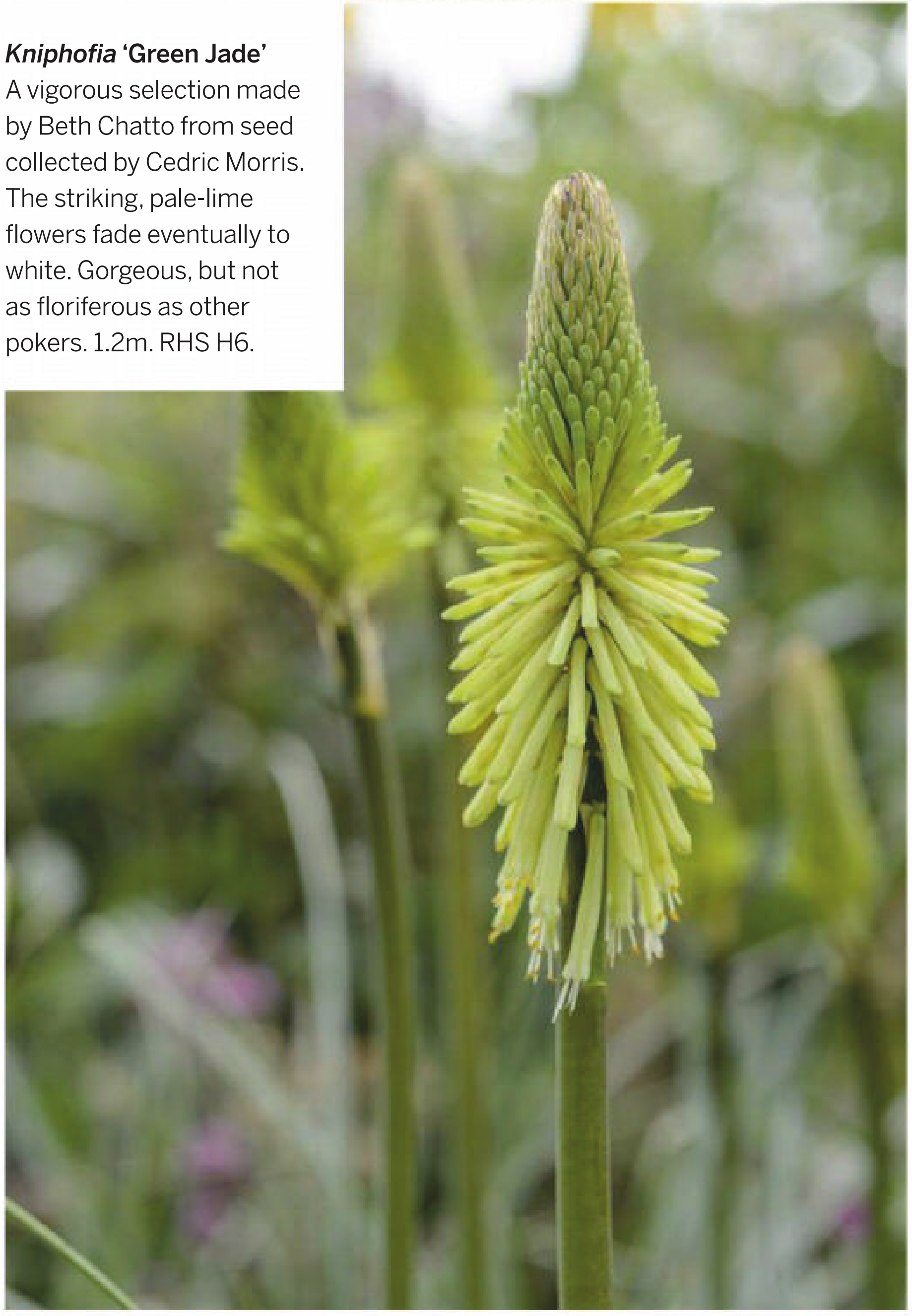


***Kniphofia* 'Percy's Pride'**
A deservedly popular hybrid with luminous flower spikes. The cream buds have a green tinge that becomes paler as the flower opens. It flowers throughout July and August. 1.2m. RHS H6.



NOVA PHOTO GRAPHIK / GAP PHOTOS

***Kniphofia* 'Wrexham Buttercup'**
Large flowers on stout stems that grow well clear of the foliage. This has been in cultivation since the 1940s and has clear yellow flowers. 1m. AGM. RHS H6.



***Kniphofia* 'Green Jade'**
A vigorous selection made by Beth Chatto from seed collected by Cedric Morris. The striking, pale-lime flowers fade eventually to white. Gorgeous, but not as floriferous as other pokers. 1.2m. RHS H6.

MANY THANKS TO THE EDEN PROJECT IN CORNWALL WHERE MOST OF THESE IMAGES WERE TAKEN.

Cultivation

In general, kniphofias need lots of sunshine and a free-draining soil. They are not fussy plants and the only thing that they cannot put up with is a soil that is waterlogged during the winter. In the west of the UK, where wet winters are the norm, freezing conditions may cause the crown of the plant to rot but even in southeast England. I have lost plants when a freezing cold has followed a wet spell.

Kniphofias will tolerate periods of drought but will not thrive in situations that are permanently dry. Adding compost, manure or some other organic matter to soil that is exceptionally free-draining will help preserve moisture and so help plants flourish.

The foliage of established plants can begin to look tatty. The best way to keep plants tidy is to pull away the old leaves in the spring. A sharp tug should be enough to remove the leaf and at the same time reveal any slugs or snails that are hiding at the base of the leaves. The dying flowers leave behind an unsightly shaggy beard at the top of the flower spike. When they reach that stage, I cut the stem down, as close to the ground as I can get. This also prevents the plant from seeding. Although not a prolific seeder, unwanted seedlings can be tenacious and will need to be dug out.

Kniphofias are relatively tough and trouble-free plants that are not susceptible to disease. Slugs and snails can eat through flower stems, often munching half-way through until, infuriatingly, the stem falls over and the flower is lost. As they emerge, the flower spikes resemble asparagus and seem to attract slugs to their tender stems, so keep an eye out for them as soon as the first shoots appear.

Many forms are vigorous and can make wide, dense clumps that are too large even for the biggest gardens and will eventually have to be reduced. One technique to keep plants within the space you want them to grow in is to cut away with a sharp knife the new shoots that appear each spring around the edge of the plant. Dealing with clumps that are already too big is hard work and requires cutting into the fleshy centre of the plant with a mattock or spade and digging pieces out.

Species kniphofias can be grown from seed, which will germinate quickly if it is fresh. Old seed germinates erratically, if at all. Plants usually flower in the second year after sowing. The easiest way to propagate cultivars is to try to cut off an offset from the base of the plant just as it is starting into growth. Make sure a piece of root is attached. Grow the young plant on in a pot before planting it out into the garden.

Further reading

Kniphofia: The Complete Guide by Christopher Whitehouse (RHS Media, 2016).

Where to buy and see

- **The Beth Chatto Gardens**
  Elmstead Market,
  Colchester, Essex CO7 7DB.
  Tel 01206 822007,
  bethchatto.co.uk
- **Claire Austin Hardy Plants**
  White Hopton Farm, Wern
  Lane, Sarn, Newtown,
  Powys SY16 4EN.
  Tel 01686 670342,
  claireaustin-hardyplants.co.uk
- **Cotswold Garden Flowers**
  Sands Lane,
  Badsey, Evesham,
  Worcestershire WR11 7EZ.
  Tel 01386 833849,
  cgf.net
- **Eden Project***
  Bodelva,
  Cornwall PL24 2SG.
  Tel 01726 811911,
  edenproject.com

*National Collection holder.

Renaissance woman

As the grande dame of garden design, Penelope Hobhouse, prepares to celebrate her 90th birthday, she talks to Stephanie Mahon about her life in gardens

WORDS STEPHANIE MAHON

Penelope Hobhouse is planning a party. The grand dame of gardening turns 90 in November, and she will celebrate with as many friends as can squeeze into her son's barn conversion in Somerset. A true Renaissance woman – gardener, writer, designer, lecturer, TV presenter – she has enjoyed a stellar career. There are few gardeners who are famous enough to have been on *Desert Island Discs,* or to have worked with Audrey Hepburn, but in self-deprecating fashion, she doesn't know what all the fuss is about. "I'm amazed when someone mentions me in an article or something. Living here as a recluse, getting old, I think I'm lucky that people remember me at all."

She had little interest in gardening until she moved to her first husband's family estate at Hadspen House in Somerset, and took on the eight-acre garden, but it was at Tintinhull, the National Trust garden where she lived with her second husband John Malins, that she started to build her name. "I had known the owner, Phyllis Reiss, who made the garden, and I adored it. When we moved there in 1979, it was a bit of a mess, so it was a great challenge to make it as beautiful as she had it."

She had first seen the garden as a visitor, unaware that 20 years later, she would be the one to restore it. Established by Reiss in the 1930s and 1940s, Tintinhull is a garden of rooms in the vein of Hidcote or Sissinghurst. "The layout is essentially formal, constructed in a grid pattern, with lawns, paths and hedges all meeting at right angles. I loved the perfect proportions, and the concept of compartments that provided the opportunity to try out different schemes – some full of bright colours, others mainly green and peaceful. At Tintinhull, I was the decorator rather than the designer, using Mrs Reiss's inspired 'bones' as the background to all the planting."

Her work there and her research into Gertrude Jekyll led to her first book, *Colour in Your Garden* (1984), which was a resounding success at home and abroad, and led to many more books and a shift into design work. "I was lucky because a family friend knew that the Rothschilds were looking for someone to redesign their Royaumont gardens in Île-de-France, and suggested me. That led to working in Germany for the fashion designer Jil Sander. And when you go to America, and on your CV it says you worked for a Rothschild and Jil Sander, that's all you need."

Soon she was getting lots of calls asking her to create gardens like the ones in her book, and one summer travelled to America nine times. At first, she requested that her clients also hire a landscape architect to manage the construction detailing, but she soon took on her own associates, Simon Johnson in the UK and Nan Sinton in the USA.

Notable public commissions include the Herb Garden at the New York Botanical Garden, with a central box parterre surrounded and infilled with a profusion of edibles and herbs in pastel shades; a garden for The Queen Mother at Walmer Castle in Kent, influenced by her interest in Islamic gardens, with a rectangular pool and arched pavilion; and the Upper Walled Garden at Aberglasney in Wales, where yew cones offer height in flower beds laid out in the shape of a Celtic cross. Her designs often featured a strong structural layout, within which she plants in a looser, more informal way.

She hit the lecture circuit with contemporaries such as John Brookes, Rosemary Verey and James van Sweden. She presented TV shows, wrote more books, and created private gardens for wealthy clients, such as Apple founder Steve Jobs. Working in places as diverse as Texas, California, Detroit and the Inner Hebridean island of Oronsay

To continue turn to page 78 ▷

CLAIRE TAKACS

Left In the Upper Walled Garden at Aberglasney in Carmarthenshire, Penelope has created a design in the shape of a Celtic cross, using an ovoid of flower beds containing yew cones for winter structure and a flurry of herbaceous perennials for summer interest.

Few gardeners are famous enough to have been on *Desert Island Discs*, or to have worked with Audrey Hepburn

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In her design for the Herb Garden that sits alongside the Enid Haupt conservatory in the New York Botanical Garden, Penelope created a quite formal knot garden, outlined in box, which she then filled with a soft mix of herbs and seasonal flowers.

Penelope was hugely proud to be asked to create a garden for The Queen Mother at Walmer Castle. She drew on her knowledge of Islamic Paradise gardens, which strongly influenced the central reflecting pool and arched pavilion at the far end.

When Penelope moved to Bettiscombe in the early 1990s, she had already planned out the garden she wanted to make. This Gravel Garden was a later addition that was inspired by the gardens of her great friends Beth Chatto and John Brookes.

The gardens at Tintinhull in Somerset were created in an Arts and Crafts style by its then owner Phyllis Reiss. Penelope and her second husband John lived here for 14 years as tenants of the National Trust, restoring the gardens while respecting Phyllis's original design.

Facing page

In the 1990s Penelope laid out the relaxed Cottage Garden at RHS Garden Wisley with beautifully chaotic mix of billowing, cottage-style plants. In summer the area around a central fountain is filled with nepeta, lavender roses, while the arches are clothed in the single white-flowered *Rosa* 'Mulliganii', mixed with the purple-flowered *Clematis* 'Wisley' to extend its short season.

PATTI McCONVILLE / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO, HISTORIC ENGLAND / GETTY IMAGES, JERRY HARPUR / GAP PHOTOS, NATIONAL TRUST IMAGES/ANDREW BUTLER

JOANNA KOSSAK / RHS, JASON INGRAM

Penelope Hobhouse's design principles

The first step in designing a garden is to get the basics of proportion and balance right. Gardens are essentially about using cubic space, but you must interpret the landscape in which the garden is set before attempting any design. When you have considered these things, get out a pencil and paper, and do a plan.

Large trees can be used to frame the sky; hedges provide vertical and horizontal lines as well as a background for planting; while small trees with broad, globular or pyramidal heads act as 'ceilings'. Low continuous hedging can be used to frame pathways.

I have been inspired by places such as Hidcote and Tintinhull, but also by garden history, especially by Italian Renaissance and Islamic gardens. I tend

Penelope's design principles continues over the page

Penelope Hobhouse's design principles continued

to create a strong structure or framework for my gardens, with looser planting within. The architecture can be supplied by buildings, walls, steps and pergolas, but also by plants.

The cardinal rule for planting is to use bright colours sparingly. Form is much more important than colour, and flowers are fleeting, so start instead with the shapes and hues of trees, hedges and shrubs, and the leaf form and colour of herbaceous plants, the shape they make and the height they grow to. Plant in strong masses and repeat core plants throughout a scheme.

Appropriate planting is vital to the success of any garden. Choose plants that will not only do well in any particular spot but will also associate happily with any indigenous neighbouring plants.

To help unite the house and garden and create flow, repeat hard or soft features.

Gardens should also provide shade and shelter, seats for contemplation, scents and solitude, and require just the amount of maintenance to encourage relaxation, because, above all, they are places to be enjoyed.

▷ meant she was constantly learning about new plants for different climate zones and adapting her ideas to suit the site and situation. One of her greatest challenges in this regard, the cliff-top Bass Garden in Maine, was also one of the gardens she enjoyed making the most. "It was on an island, very exposed on the coast facing the Atlantic Ocean, which presented all sorts of difficulties." These experiences reinforced her commitment to using plants in the right place, inspired by her great friend Beth Chatto. "Far more jarring to me than any garish colour combination is the sight of plants with entirely different cultural requirements growing alongside one another."

It was during these frenetic years of designing that Penelope moved to the Coach House in Bettiscombe, Dorset, where she finally had the opportunity to make a garden from scratch. "I was working full time and away a lot, so it had to be a sensible garden, but I still loved it." She had planned it all out with her husband John before he died – a walled garden, with formal axes, a central lawn and flower beds, and an avenue of yew pillars delineating an orchard meadow, and later a gravel garden with central square pool and tender planting, with the rolling Dorset hills as a backdrop. It cemented her reputation as a gifted plantswoman with an historical grounding but a progressive approach.

She has now come full circle, and is back in Somerset, where she has created an ebulliently planted little courtyard garden. Her trademark structure is provided by clipped *Phillyrea lactifolia*, which echo each other across a central path, with symmetrical beds either side planted up in a flowering profusion of cool, calming colours. Large pots punctuate corners and doorways, and she can enjoy the view from both inside and out, just how she likes it. "When I came back here at 83, I gave up being a designer, and I knew this was going to be my last garden," she says. "I decided to do it just for me. Me, and the cat." ❑

Right Penelope's current garden, which she laid out in her eighties, is an exuberant mix of cottage-style planting with *Nepeta racemosa* 'Walker's Low' lining the path to her house and the tall, white spikes of *Chamaenerion angustifolium* 'Album' adding height.

JASON INGRAM

When I came here at 83, I knew this was going to be my last garden, so I decided to do it just for me. Me, and the cat

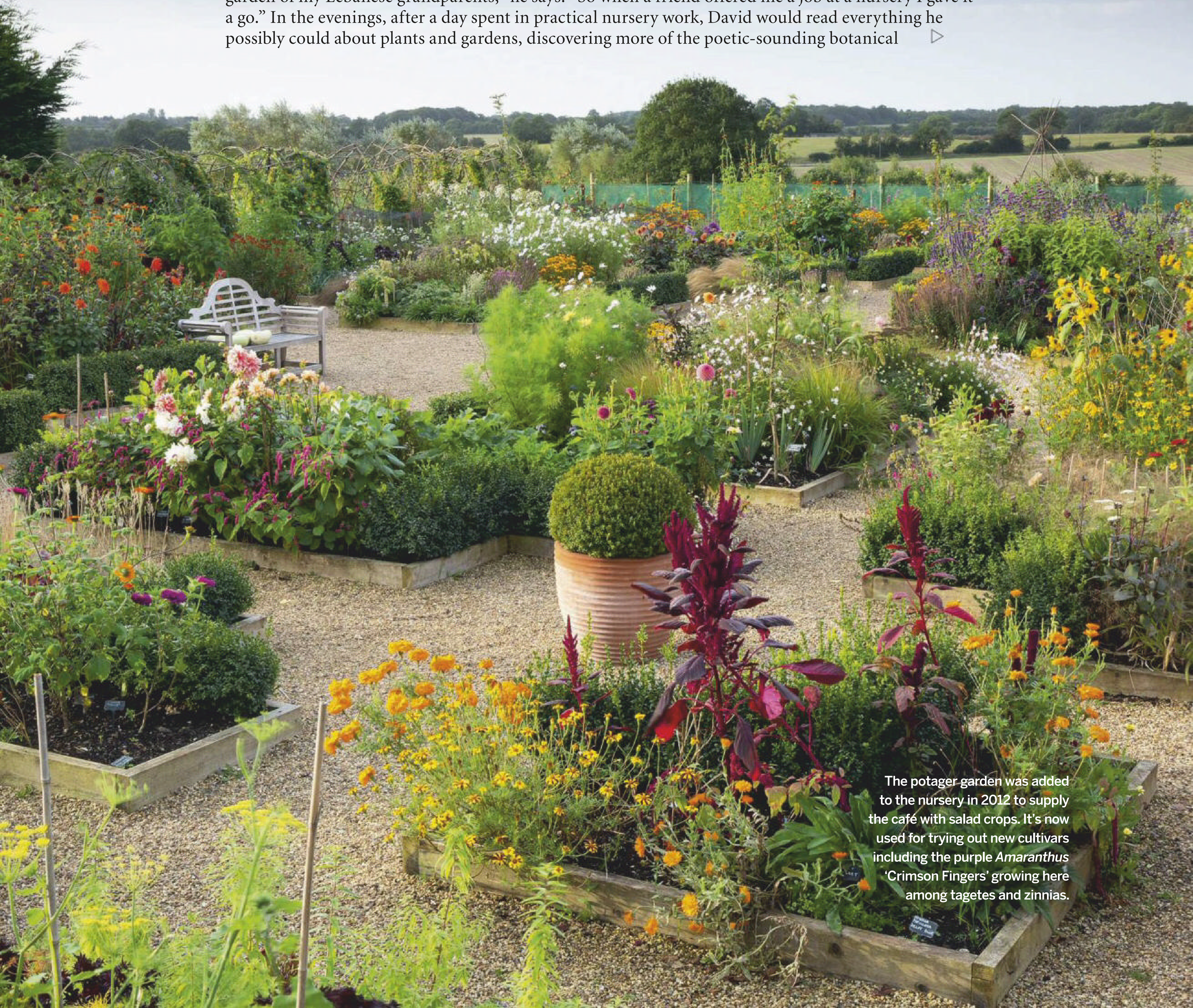
New direction

Darsham Nurseries in Suffolk is one of a new breed of destination nurseries, as renowned for its plot-to-plate café and stylish shop as for its beautiful selections of hardy perennials and annuals

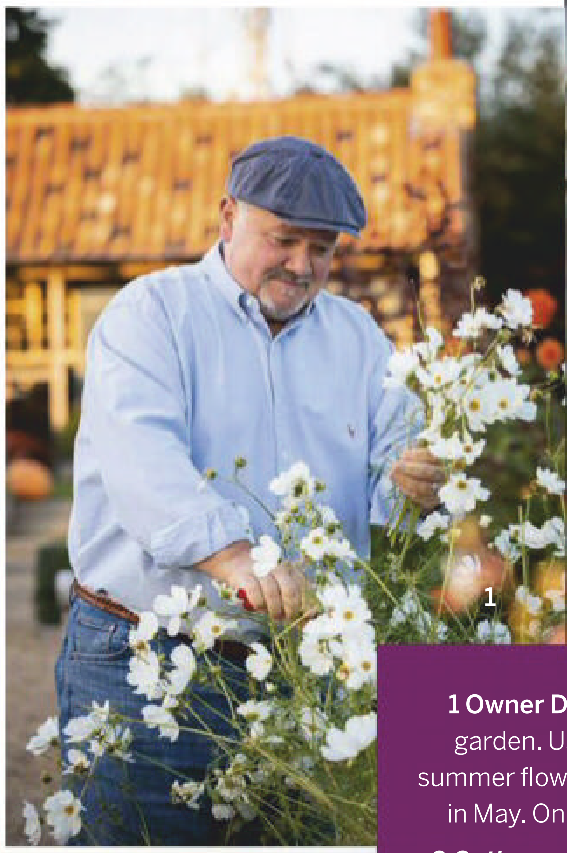
WORDS **NOEL KINGSBURY** PHOTOGRAPHS **RICHARD BLOOM**

Nurseries used to be fairly functional places. They sold locally grown plants, maybe some sundries, but the emphasis was firmly on growing and selling plants. How things have changed. Darsham Nurseries around ten miles from Southwold on the Suffolk coast is a wonderful example of a new departure. It's cheerful, stylish, friendly and innovative, with a shop selling everything from beautifully made tools to homesware, and a café that gets rave reviews in the national press and is as big a draw as the nursery's wide selection of herbaceous perennials.

Perhaps it's no surprise to discover that the owner of this vibrant enterprise David Keleel is from California. David started out as a professional bassoonist, but abandoned a musical career when the lure of making a living among plants became too great. "I had always loved being in the perfect little garden of my Lebanese grandparents," he says. "So when a friend offered me a job at a nursery I gave it a go." In the evenings, after a day spent in practical nursery work, David would read everything he possibly could about plants and gardens, discovering more of the poetic-sounding botanical ▷



The potager garden was added to the nursery in 2012 to supply the café with salad crops. It's now used for trying out new cultivars including the purple *Amaranthus* 'Crimson Fingers' growing here among tagetes and zinnias.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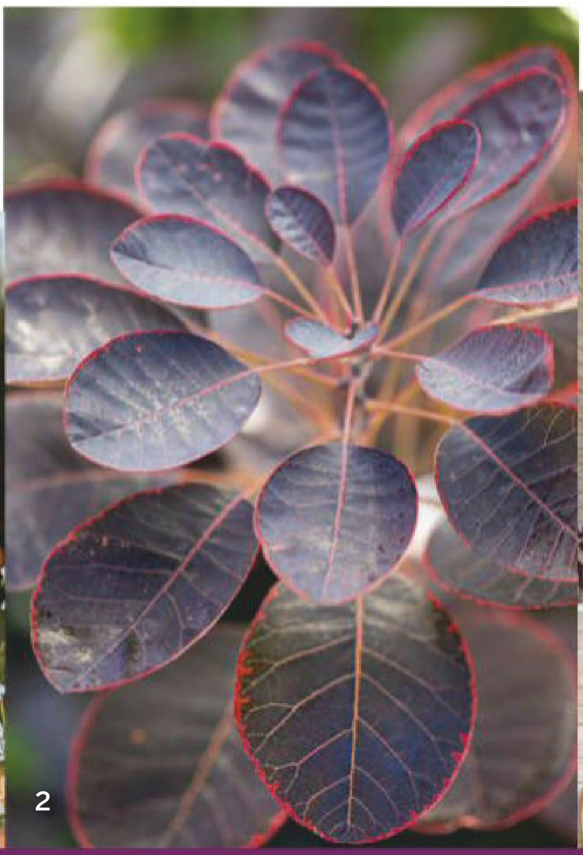
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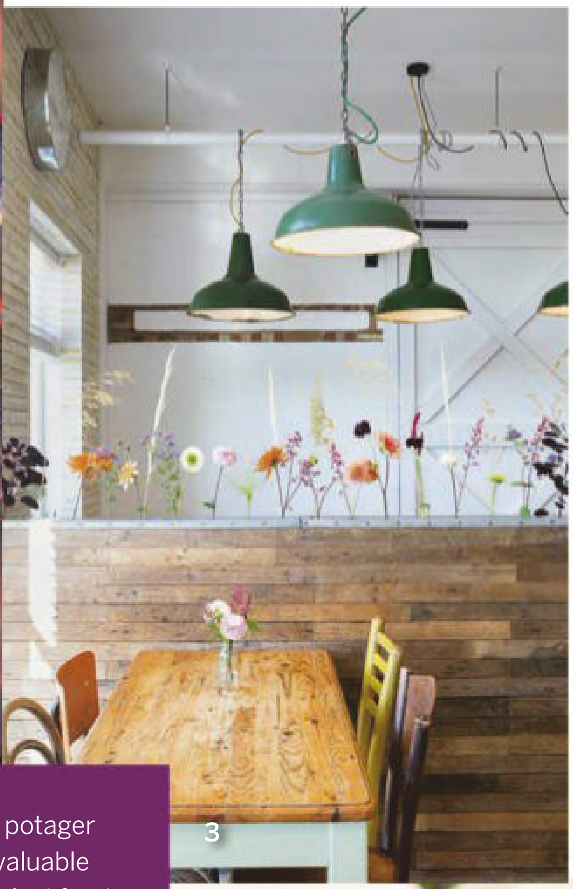
3

1 Owner David Keleel cuts *Cosmos bipinnatus* 'Purity' in the potager garden. Usually grown as half-hardy annuals, cosmos are invaluable summer flowers and will flower only a little later if sown after the last frosts in May. Once blooming they will carry on until the first autumn freeze.

2 ***Cotinus coggygria*** **'Lilla'** is a vigorous shrub that can grow to around 3m, but is easily kept to size by hard pruning. Its richly coloured foliage makes it very useful in borders as a complement to a range of flower colours, and is also useful for cut flower arrangements.

3 The licensed café draws diners from far and wide thanks to the plaudits from national food critics and its constantly changing seasonal menus that make full use of produce picked in the nursery's potager.

4 ***Heuchera*** **'Paris'** is one of several heucheras David grows that offer good flowers in addition to fine foliage. This one grows to 50cm in flower, and forms slowly spreading clumps."It's vigorous, enchanting and the flowers last forever in water," says David.

5 ***Dahlia*** **'Bahama Apricot'** offers large apricot flowers that fade to ivory over time. It's a tall dahlia with 90cm stems, so it's good for cutting.

6 ***Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*** **'Septemberrubin'** is a tall and vigorous autumn-flowering aster. Reliable and long-lived, it makes a good back of border plant that will slowly form clumps.

7 In the nursery's shade tunnel, David grows a selection of hostas, astilbes, ferns, hydrangeas and other shade-loving plants.

8 A selection of chillies and peppers for the café. Chillies (*Capsicum annuum*) are short-lived perennials but generally grown as annuals in northern Europe. They need heat, so are best grown in a greenhouse, and although they're easy to grow, seed must be sown at 20°C in February at a time when it can be difficult to give seedlings the light they need.

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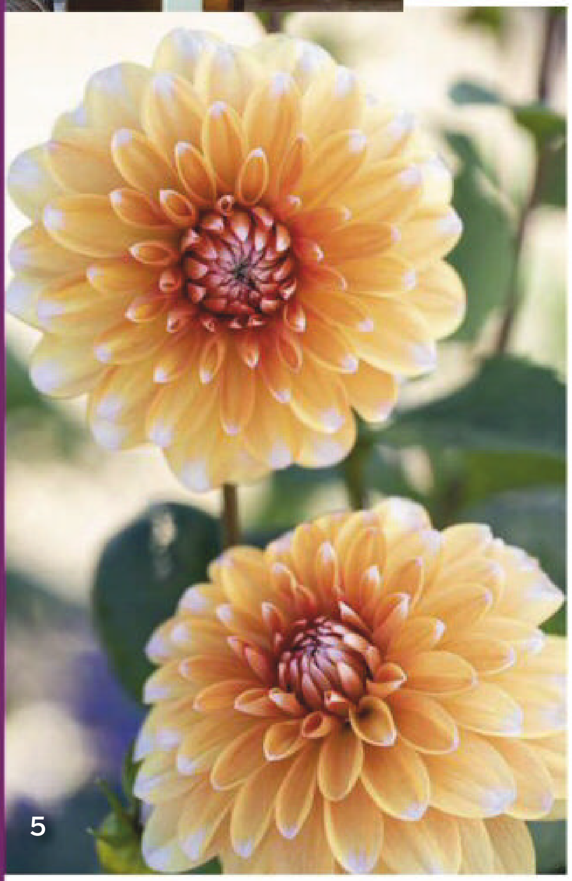
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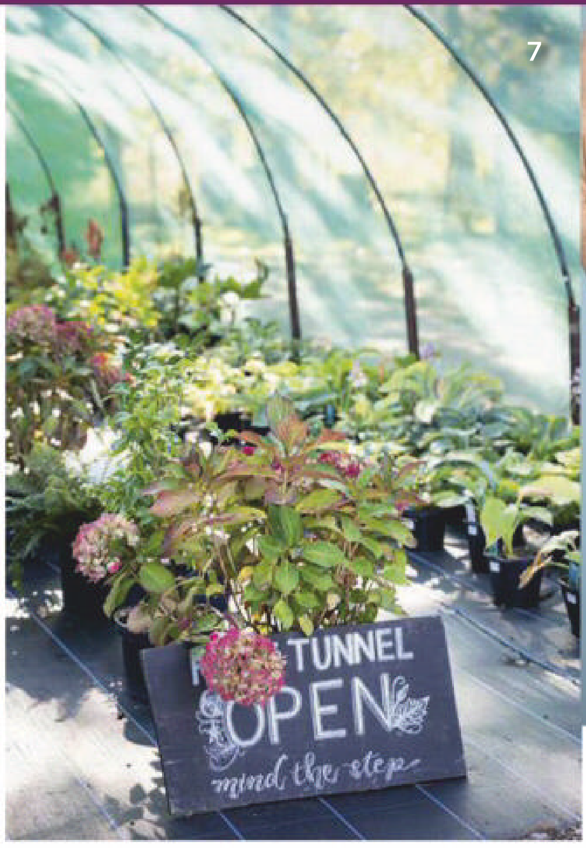
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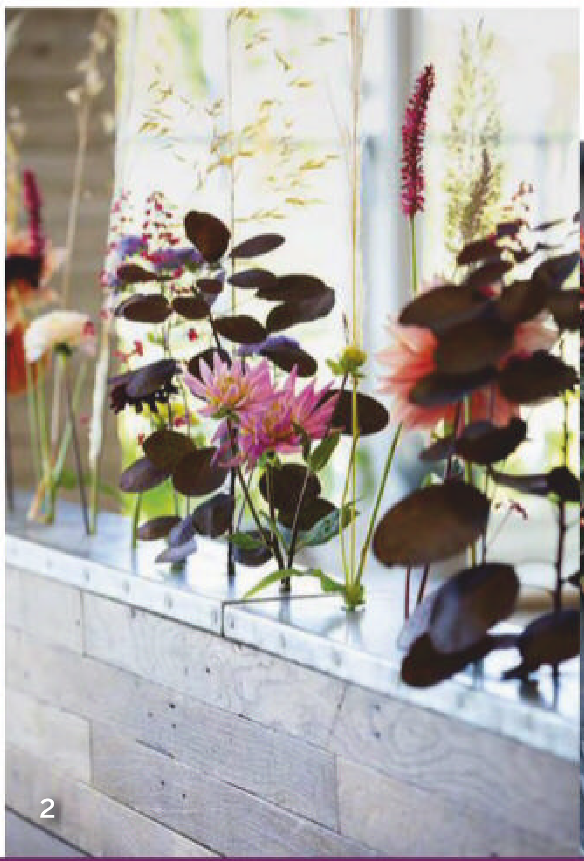
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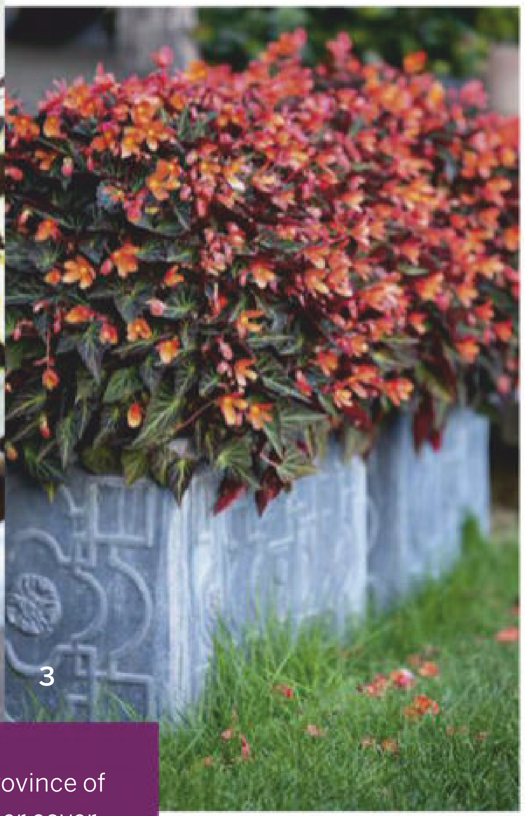
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1 The mild *Capsicum annuum* 'Poblano', from the Mexican province of Pueblo, is one of several chillies and peppers David grows under cover.

2 The room divider in the café, which David calls the meadow, includes a galvanised trough with holes drilled into its top so that it can be used to display seasonal cut flowers, such as this mix of grasses, dahlias and *Cotinus coggygria* 'Royal Purple'. "It's one of my favourite things," says David. "I always love flowers displayed singly."

3 Troughs flanking the steps of the summerhouse are filled with *Begonia* 'Glowing Embers' a phenomenal cascading plant that is ideal for containers with bronze leaves and flowers from June until the first frost. "We grow them as annuals, but they are perennial," says David.

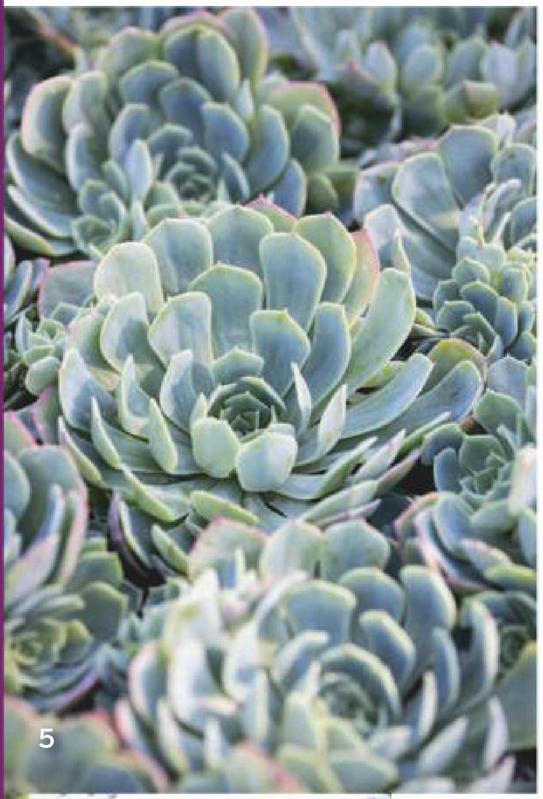
4 A selection of fresh vegetables, including the French bean *Phaseolus vulgaris* 'Speedy', the mini pumpkin *Cucurbita pepo* 'Baby Boo' and the unusual, long red onion *Allium cepa* 'Rossa Lunga di Firenze', en route to the café's kitchen.

5 *Echeveria elegans* is a tough and easy succulent that slowly spreads to form clumps, eventually producing small, orange flowers.

6 The summerhouse was built from reclaimed materials using traditional techniques by artist and builder Charlie Hawkins. The covered porch was inspired by Japanese rain theatres where visitors can stand or sit and watch the rain.

7 At Darsham beetroots are grown for their young leaves, which are used in the café's salads, as well as for their roots .

8 David grows a range of plants at Darsham, but places particular emphasis on growing fragrant species, such as this honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* 'Serotina', which has been trained up a wigwam, surrounded by *Cosmos bipinnatus* 'Purity'.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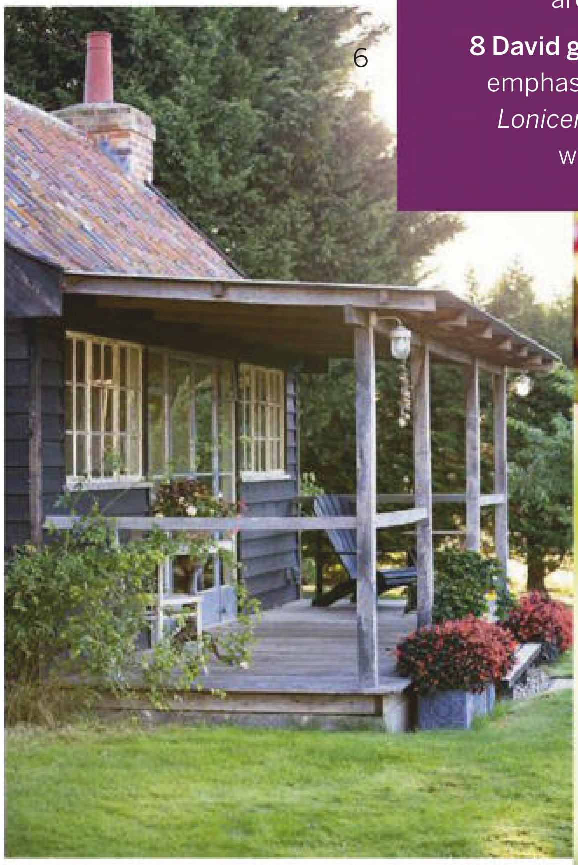
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▷ names that had long fascinated him. In time, he was offered the chance to take over a small community garden in San Francisco, which in turn led to a series of garden design jobs. Among his clients were Ron and Christine Mickelsen, the owners of the Half Moon Bay Nursery in San Francisco, who have become friends of David and continue to mentor and inspire him.

Inevitably perhaps, David developed that feeling familiar to many gardeners that gardens would be greener on the other side of the fence – or in David's case the other side of the Atlantic. "There were certain plants that I loved that wouldn't grow in California, as they don't chill properly over the winter," he explains. "And, of course, I thought of England as the cathedral of all things horticultural. Then I fell in love with an Englishman, so I had to come."

After studying garden design at the English Garden School in London, David spent three years working for Clifton Nurseries, before deciding he was ready to run his own business. So along with his partner, Willie Williams, the Englishman who had brought him to the UK, David began the long process of trying to find a bit of land. "I went all over the country, looking at nurseries for sale," he says. "I found wonderful nurseries in difficult locations and wonderful locations with difficult nurseries." Finally, in August 2007 a friend told him about a former garden centre in Suffolk, which ticked more boxes than most.

The process of preparing the site took four years and involved taking out 180 x *Cuprocyparis leylandii* and installing an extensive system of drains. "The site turned out to be on heavy clay," says David. "We ▷

> I FOUND WONDERFUL NURSERIES IN DIFFICULT LOCATIONS AND WONDERFUL LOCATIONS WITH DIFFICULT NURSERIES

DARSHAM
NURSERIES

The well-stocked sales area behind the café offers a wide range of perennials, including several colourful *Cyclamen persicum* cultivars and the variegated ivy *Hedera helix*.

even had a digger that could not get into the ground in the summer.” Eventually, the nursery opened in 2011, with the café and shop opening a year later.

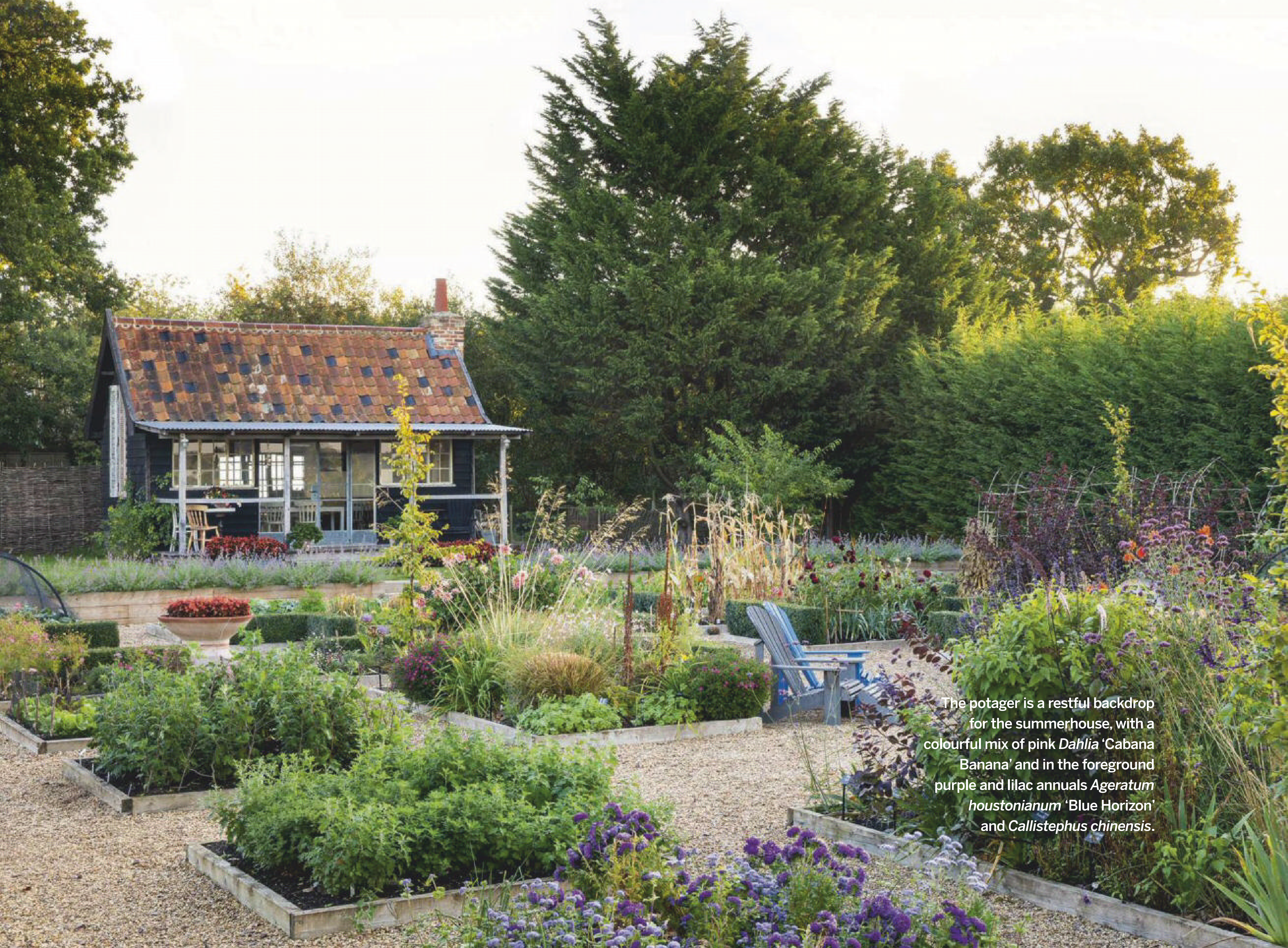
David specialises in herbaceous perennials, with an emphasis on fragrant species, and clearly has an eye for the kinds of plants that sell themselves. “I’m interested in promoting plants that will grow in many different conditions,” he says. “So they might flower but then have to pay the rent the rest of the year with volume, leaf colour and texture. Something appealing even if it is not flowering.” Plants also need to be fully hardy, as there is no winter protection at Darsham. “That way I can reassure people that if we sell it, it will grow in Suffolk.”

One thing David’s not interested in is pandering to fluctuating fashions. “Some people dismiss plants they consider unfashionable,” he says. “I had someone in the other day who expressed surprise at my growing hydrangeas, which she clearly thought terribly out of date. My grandmother was a great gardener and she grew hydrangeas, so for me that’s a solid recommendation. There are no unfashionable plants.”

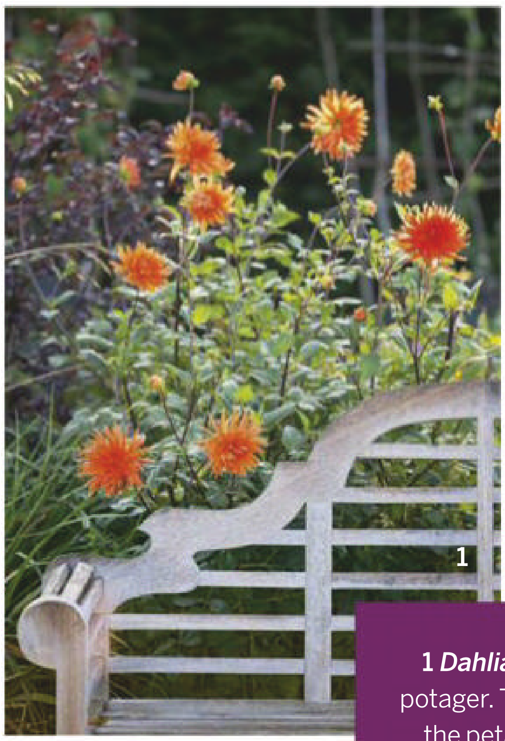
USEFUL INFORMATION

Address Main Road, Darsham, Suffolk IP17 3PW. **Tel** 01728 667022. **Website** darshamnurseries.co.uk
Open Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm. Sundays and Bank Holidays, 10am-4pm. See website for café opening times.

> I’M INTERESTED IN PLANTS THAT FLOWER BUT PAY THE RENT THE REST OF THE YEAR WITH LEAF COLOUR AND TEXTURE



The potager is a restful backdrop for the summerhouse, with a colourful mix of pink *Dahlia* ‘Cabana Banana’ and in the foreground purple and lilac annuals *Ageratum houstonianum* ‘Blue Horizon’ and *Callistephus chinensis*.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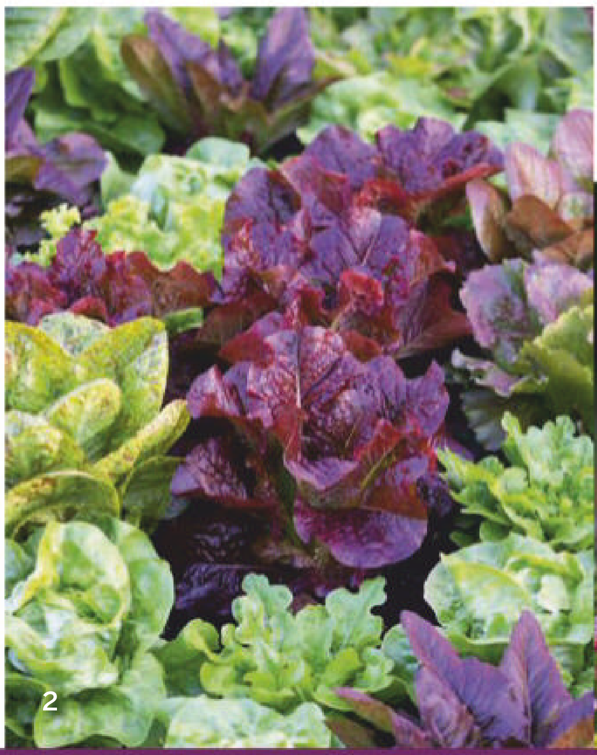
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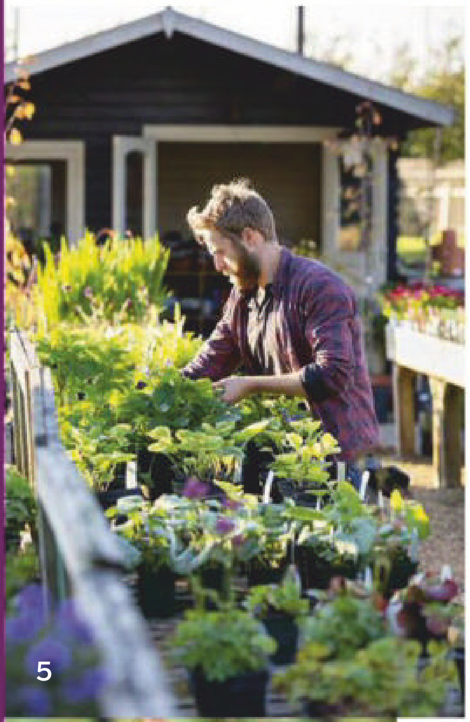
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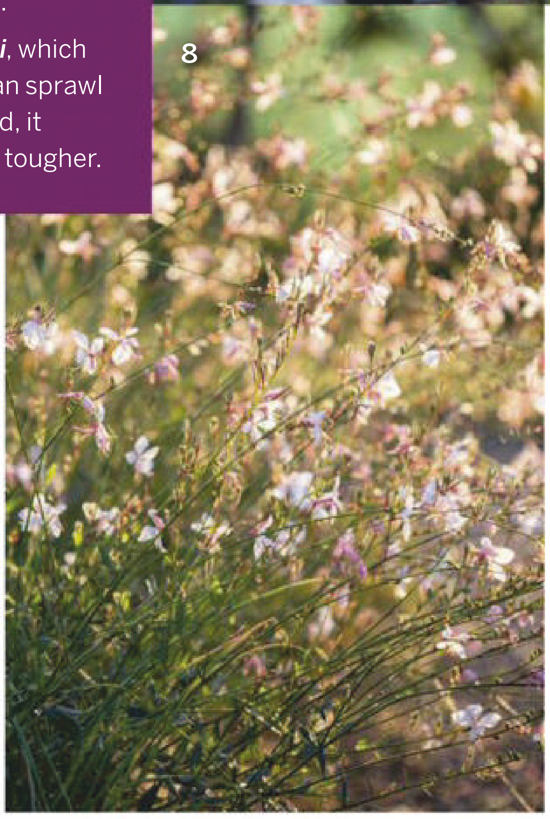
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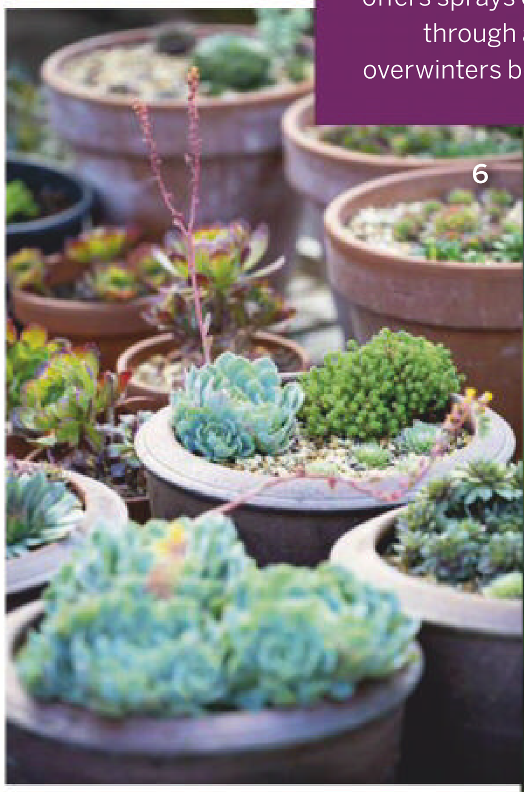
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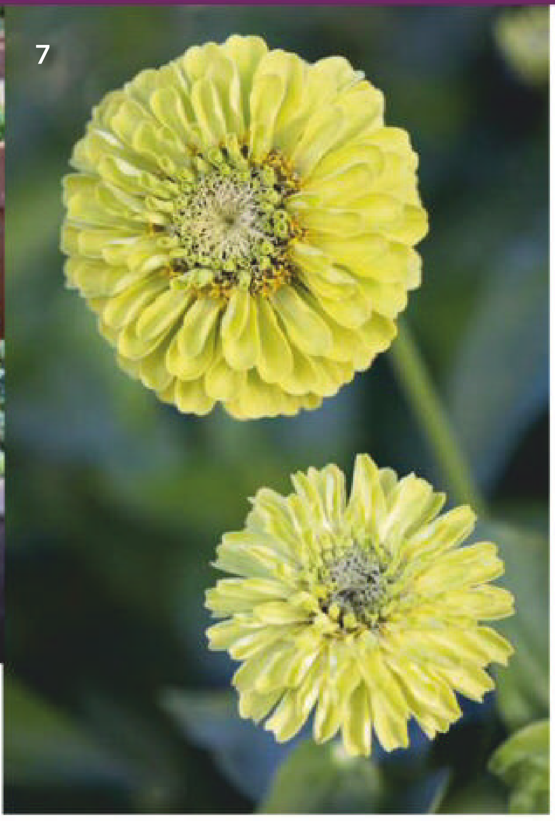
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1 *Dahlia* 'Mel's Orange Marmalade' adds colour around a bench in the potager. This fimbriated semi-cactus dahlia, so-called because the ends of the petals are divided or fimbriated, grows to around a metre in height.

2 A selection of lettuces growing in the potager, including 'Yugoslavian Red' in the centre and 'Speckled Trout' to the left.

3 *Ageratum houstonianum* 'Blue Horizon' is a half-hardy annual that grows to around 60cm and can flower for months. "It's hard to get these taller cultivars," says David. "Most of those sold are compact, which might do for Victorian bedding-out schemes, but lack grace."

4 The potager features combinations of complementary colours, including this mix of purple *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae* 'Septemberrubin', pink *Hylotelephium telephium* 'Purple Emperor', white *Cosmos bipinnatus* 'Purity' and blue *Geranium himalayense* 'Gravetye.

5 Nursery manager Aaron Meadows tends to plants in the sales area, where he is on hand to help customers choose the best plants.

6 Despite the current fashion for succulents, David grows few at Darsham. Although he admits that "some echeverias and aeoniums put together always gets a lot of interest". They are also plants that will survive periods of drought common to Suffolk.

7 *Zinnia elegans* 'Benary's Giant Lime' is one of several annuals David grows at Darsham. It's a cultivar from the dramatic and long-flowering Benary's Giant Series from the German seed company Benary. The flowerheads can be up to 8cm across on 90cm stems.

8 One of Darsham's popular perennials is *Gaura lindheimeri*, which offers sprays of white flowers, but needs careful placing so it can sprawl through and over other plants. Although always short-lived, it overwinters best after a hot summer as the woody rootstock is tougher.

Thank you, Sylvia

Sylvia left a gift in her Will to help conquer Stroke

The first we knew of Sylvia was when we received notification of the gift she'd left us in her Will. Shortly after, a beautiful story of a much-loved woman began to unfurl.

Friends remembered Sylvia's kind-heart and her wish to help others. She spent part of her adult-life caring for her mother, and developed a passion for medicine. Becoming a medical secretary was her next step and, in the course of her career, she discovered the devastating impact a stroke could have on people and their families. She saw that research and treatment were vastly under-funded, and she decided to remember the Stroke Association in her Will.

Sylvia's gift has helped fund our work to conquer stroke. She's supported research to prevent and treat stroke, and she's helped care for survivors. And that's something you can do too – in the same way.

If you would like to learn more about remembering the Stroke Association in your Will, please get in touch.

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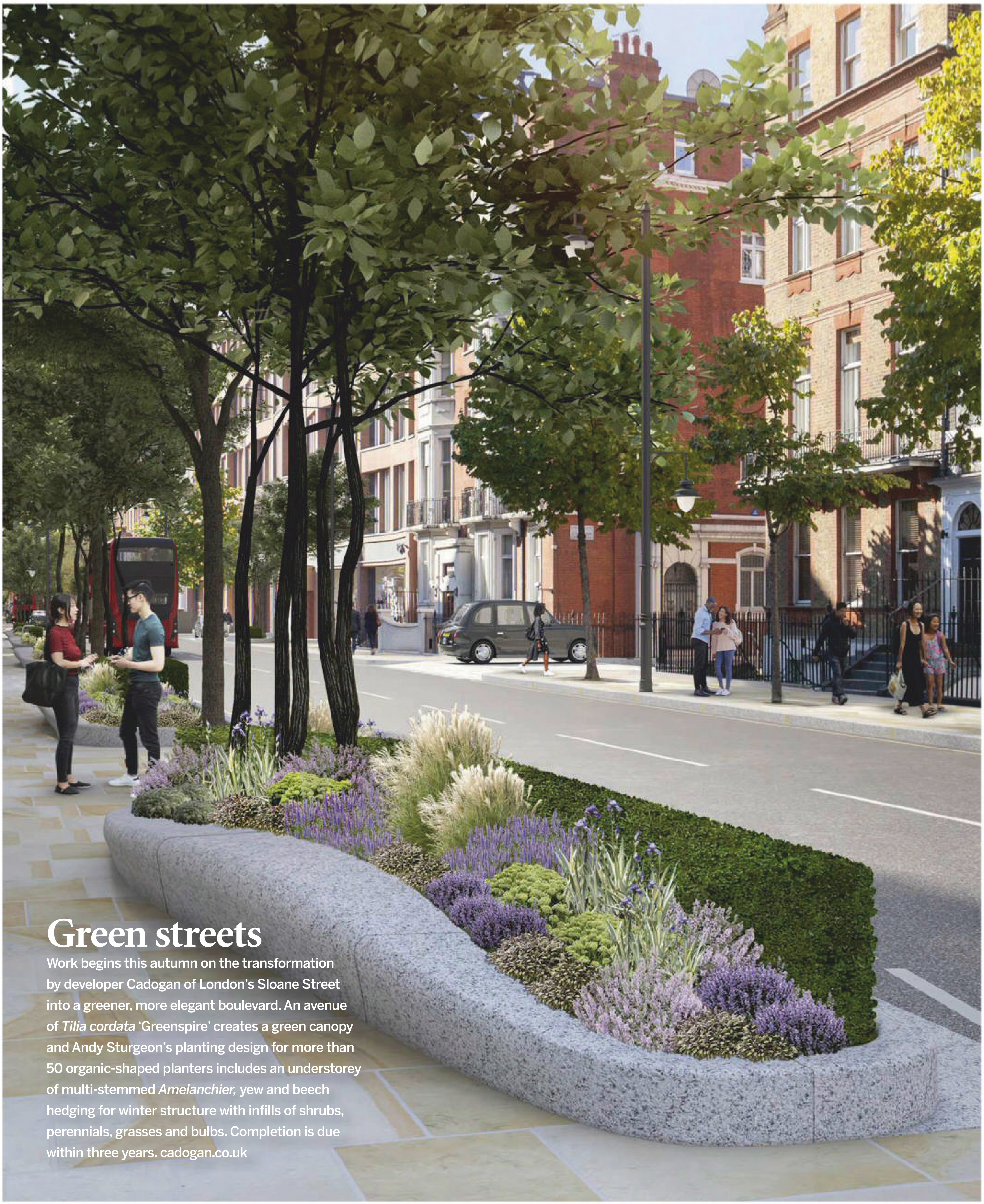

Green streets

Work begins this autumn on the transformation by developer Cadogan of London's Sloane Street into a greener, more elegant boulevard. An avenue of *Tilia cordata* 'Greenspire' creates a green canopy and Andy Sturgeon's planting design for more than 50 organic-shaped planters includes an understorey of multi-stemmed *Amelanchier,* yew and beech hedging for winter structure with infills of shrubs, perennials, grasses and bulbs. Completion is due within three years. cadogan.co.uk

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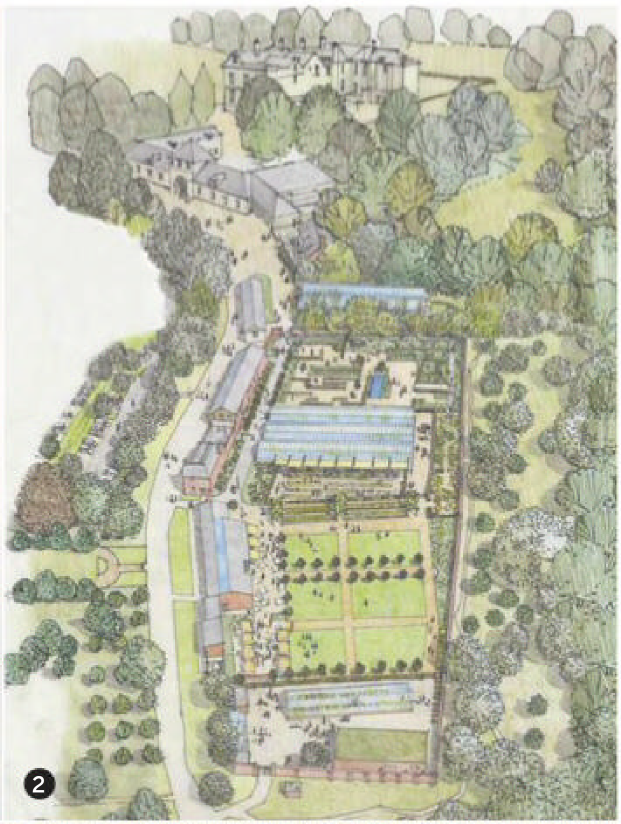


HENNING LARSEN ARCHITECTS, RICHARD CARMAN, KARL MACKIE, CÉSAR BÉJAR

① DANISH PARK DESIGN WINNERS

Landscape architects Topotek 1 and Henning Larsen have won a competition to revitalise the Bypark in Esbjerg, Denmark. Central to the design is a 2,500-seat amphitheatre that follows the curvilinear topography of the park and offers an uninterrupted view of the harbour. The roof of a sunken building at the base of the amphitheatre serves as a fountain in summer and an ice rink in winter. The redesigned children's playground contains a canal-like water feature and repurposed bunkers provide a café, museum and bicycle repair shop. **topotek1.de**

② REPTON REVISITED

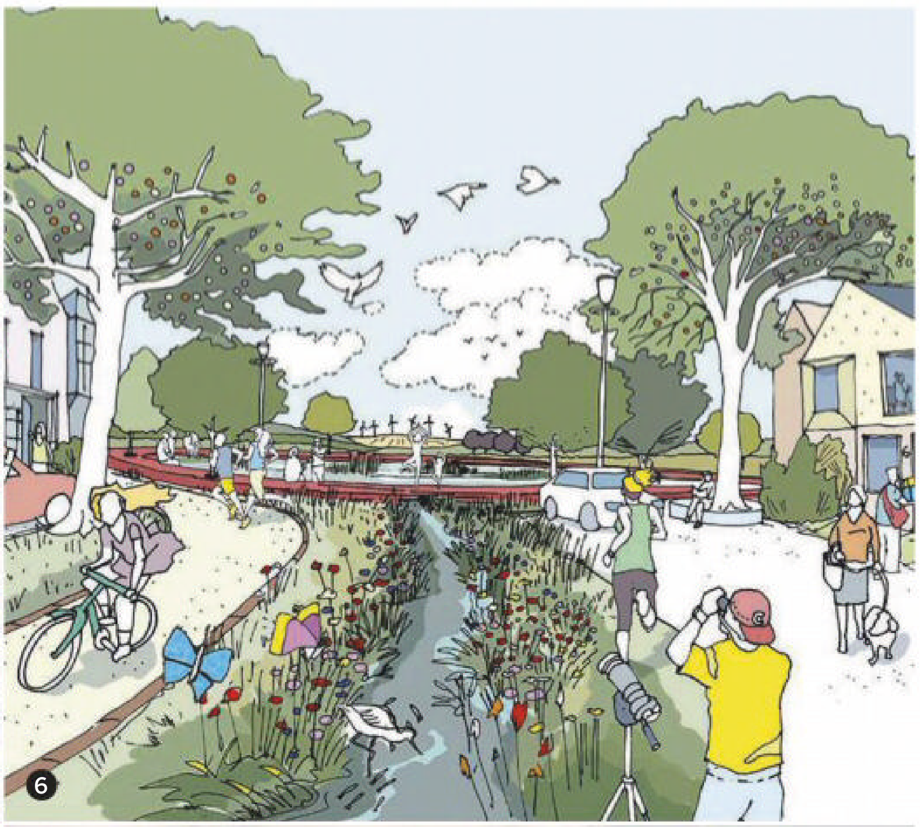
Work has begun on the redesign of the Walled Garden in Stanmer Park, Brighton, part of a major restoration of a 49-acre area of the park designed by Humphry Repton. The Walled Garden, which once housed the glasshouses, will be reinstated and managed by students at Plumpton College. The design by Dominic Cole Landscape Architects includes traditional fruit and vegetable areas, themed gardens that showcase a wide range of plants that can be grown in urban conditions, a farm shop, plant sales and a café. The project is due to be completed by autumn 2020. **brighton-hove.gov.uk**

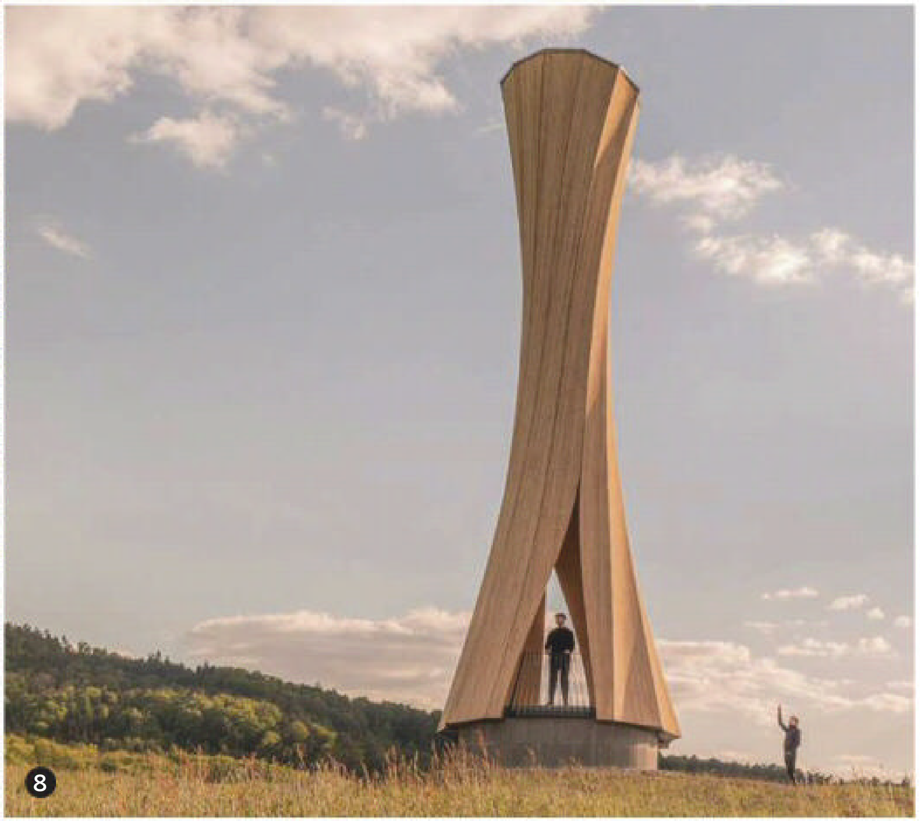
③ HIDING OUT IN THE CORNISH WILDERNESS

Kudhva, which takes its name from the Cornish word for hideout, is a series of prototype wilderness cabins designed by Ben Huggins at Devon-based architects New British Design. Described as tree tents, the pods offer unique accommodation on a site that makes creative reuse of a disused quarry on the north Cornwall coast. Made from a combination of larch, and paged pine plywood, the angled pods have been designed to touch lightly on the ecologically rich site. Raised on wooden legs, the off-grid shelters are fitted with suspended beds and offer elevated views down the coast. **kudhva.com**

④ TEMPLE TO NATURE

Collaborative design office CO-LAB has devised a pavilion made from sustainably grown bamboo for Luum Zama, a residential development in a conservation area of native jungle in Tulum, Mexico. Luum Temple, a place of reflection, is an open, five-sided, catenary structure that creates dappled light from its woven shell and allows breezes to cool the interior. With a high strength-to-weight ratio, and the fact that bamboo sequesters carbon in the years before it is harvested, it is an example of a sustainable development in the delicate ecology of the area. **co-labdesignoffice.com/luum-temple**





⑤ PILLAR TO POST

A trial of lamppost greening is taking place in London's Ebury Street to assess the potential environmental benefits of retrofitting the capital's estimated 494,000 lampposts with columnar living-wall systems that are irrigated using solar energy. Designed by Scotscape in conjunction with Grosvenor Britain and Ireland, the Smart Pillars, which can be planted with hardy deciduous plants to provide year-round greening, could be used in congested city centres where service pipes prevent tree planting. Greenwich University is investigating the extent to which Smart Pillars can mitigate air pollution.

⑥ REIMAGINING THE GARDEN CITY DESIGN

EcoResponsive Environments has won a competition to design a residential development capturing the pioneering spirit that led to the development of Letchworth Garden City over a 100 years ago. The Grange-in-the-Hedges scheme north of Letchworth provides a green framework for the 111-acre, mixed housing development. Existing hedges, a moat of wetlands and ponds and peripheral meadows create a Wildlife Recovery Network, and an orchard, vegetable gardens and allotments provide opportunities for food growing. **ribacompetitions.com**

⑦ SHOW GARDEN STOPS AT SOLIHULL

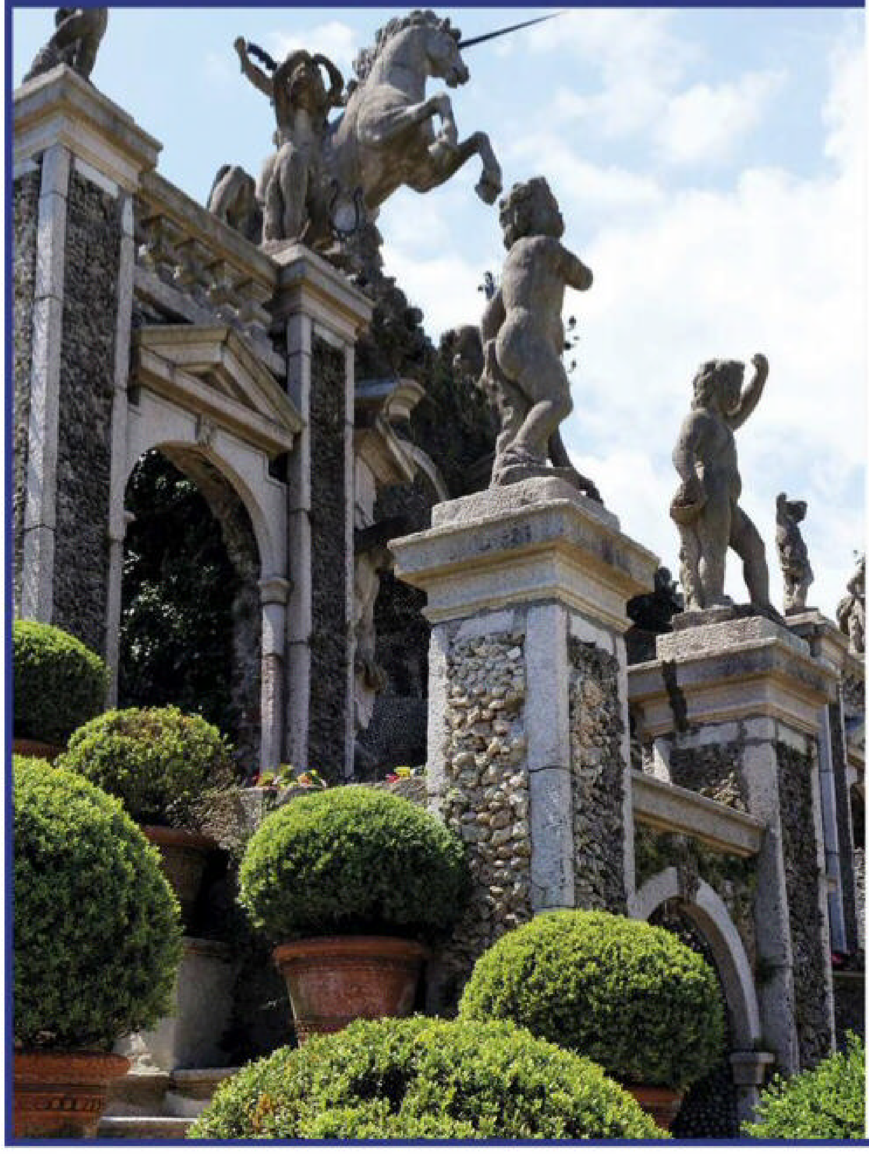
The Stop and Pause Garden designed by Dave Green, which won Gold, Best Lifestyle and Global Impact Garden, and Best Construction Award at this year's RHS Hampton Court Show, has been installed at Solihull Hospital, West Midlands. With a colour scheme of whites, greens, purples and blues, the tranquil woodland-edge garden, built by PC Landscapes, was designed around a central reflection pool. In its new site, the water has been replaced by a gravel-and-stone circle, and the paths are wider and on one level to accommodate wheelchair users.

⑧ SELF-SHAPING WOOD TOWER

The Urbach Tower is one of 16 permanent structures installed at this year's Remstal Gartenschau in Germany that evoke the traditional chapels of the Rems Valley. Designed by Stuttgart University's Institute for Computational Design and Construction in conjunction with ITKE, it is made from 12 cross-laminated spruce components that are bent by harnessing the wood's characteristic shrinking as it dries, avoiding the energy-intensive, mechanical processes of most timber bending. The timber pieces are clad in larch, and spiral upwards to create a 14m-high tower. **janknippers.com**

TIM SANDALL

ITALIAN GARDENS



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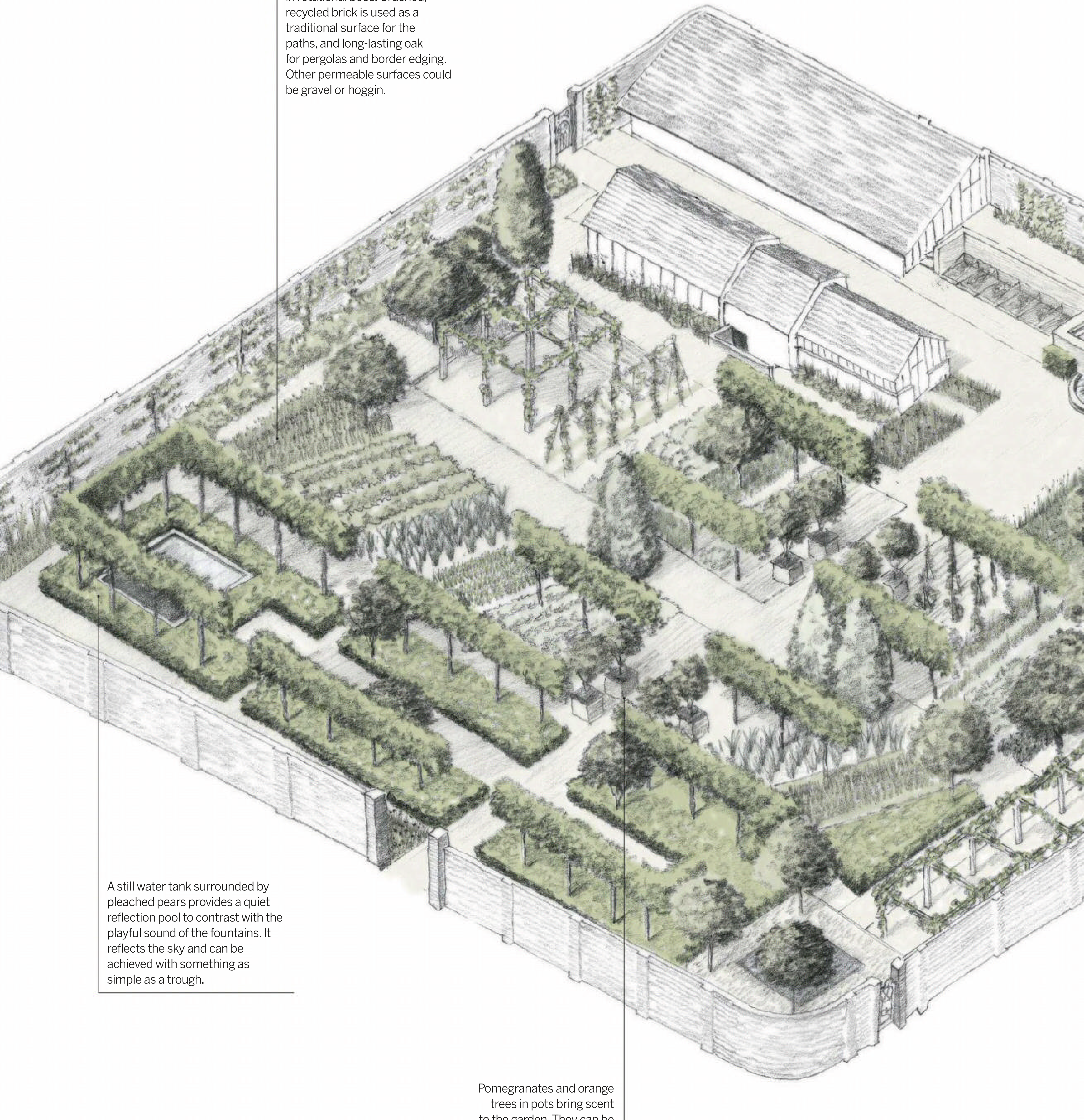


Paradise gardens are full of fruit and vegetables planted in rotational beds. Crushed, recycled brick is used as a traditional surface for the paths, and long-lasting oak for pergolas and border edging. Other permeable surfaces could be gravel or hoggin.

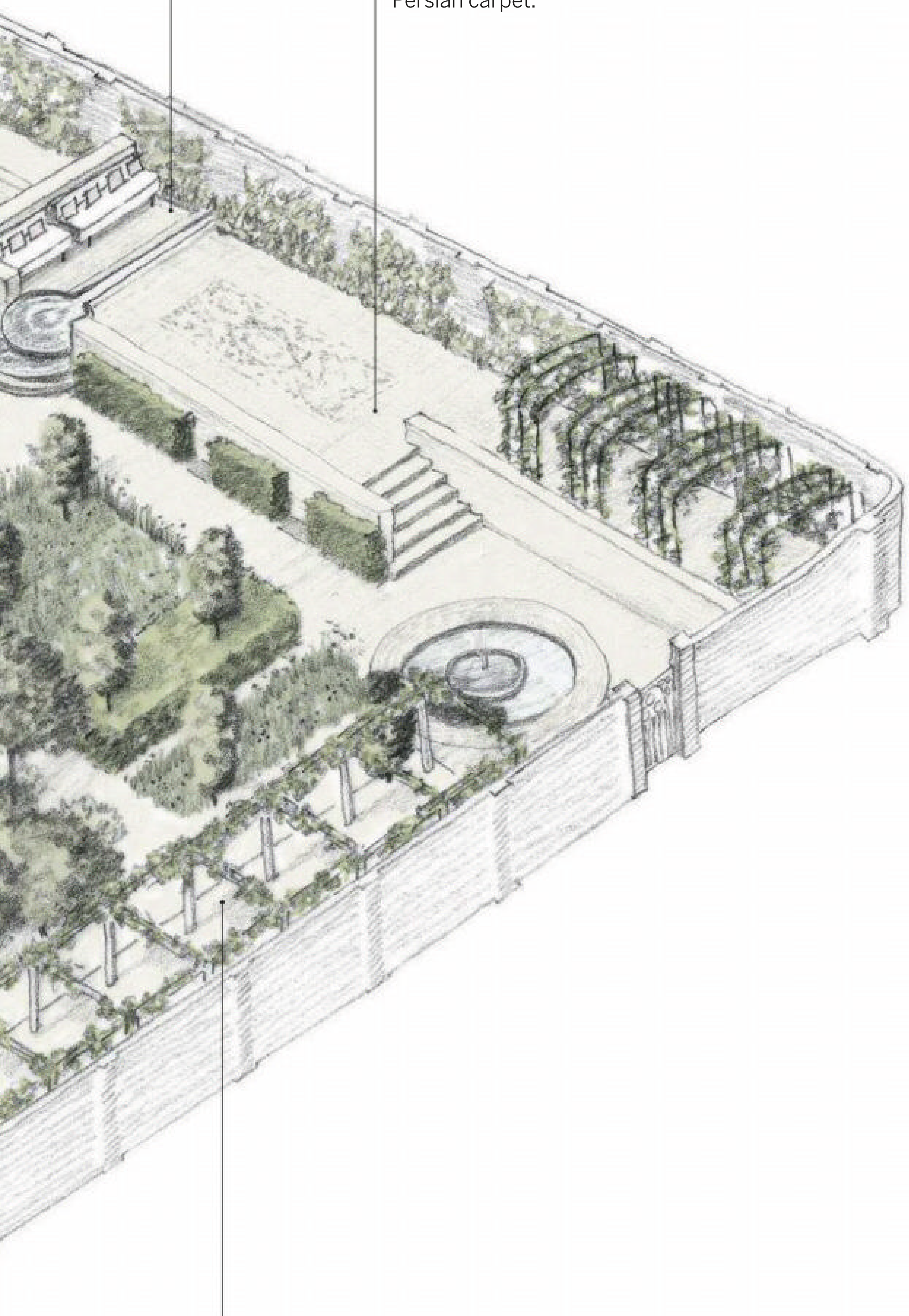
A still water tank surrounded by pleached pears provides a quiet reflection pool to contrast with the playful sound of the fountains. It reflects the sky and can be achieved with something as simple as a trough.

Pomegranates and orange trees in pots bring scent to the garden. They can be moved into the temperate glasshouse in the winter.

Bringing paradise to your garden

Since ancient times gardens have offered protection, nourishment and delight. Designer Marian Boswall suggests how to turn your outside space into a personal paradise

WORDS MARIAN BOSWALL



Low seats suggest an outdoor Persian *majalis*, a place to gather and talk with friends. A cooling rill begins the language of water that spills over into a pool and plays through the site. An underground rainwater harvester filters and recycles water from the roofs.

The pebble mosaic on the floor is inspired by a favourite old Persian carpet.

A long, sheltered arbour covered in jasmine and wisteria brings sensory delight to eye and nose level. A shorter pergola or rose arch could bring the same sense of journey.

SOPHIE POLLOCK FOR MBLA

When you think back to your happiest memories outdoors, what were you doing? What could you hear and what could you smell? Who were you with? Getting to know a new garden design client is a bit like speed dating – I need to understand quickly and in some depth what their personal paradise feels like.

It's not what people have that makes them happy, but an emotion or memory they associate with what they have. You can pay a fortune for a certain garden, but if it does not feed your own personal paradise, it will not bring you fulfilment.

Since the Persian ruler Cyrus the Great created his palace gardens in the 6th century BCE, we have strived for protection, nourishment and delight. Protection came through walls, with the word paradise coming from the Persian *para deiza*, or enclosed garden. Nourishment and shade came from orchards of nuts and fruit, and delight came from the layout, colours, scents and flowers of the trees, enhanced by planting them alongside raised walkways. As well as providing a physical oasis in the harsh desert environment, these early gardens were designed to engender spiritual succour. Sacred geometry was used to divide the space into a *chahar bagh* (four gardens), with water channels representing the four rivers of life, bringing coolness, light and sound energy from sources deep in the mountains. This quadripartite layout was adopted by the Muslim Arabs after the 7th-century conquest of Persia and established the pattern of the celestial garden of the Quran.

FIRST STEPS TO HEAVEN

In Christian philosophy, the Garden of Eden represents the Platonic ideal of a perfectly happy state. Landscapes, such as Stowe, the William Kent-designed garden in Buckinghamshire, evoked heaven on earth with a bucolic English version of the Elysian fields. As layouts evolved in the English landscape style, the walled garden moved away from the main house where it often continued the geometry and fecundity of a paradise garden alone in its seclusion as a vegetable potager.

In these days of instant gratification, do you know what makes you truly happy? If so, how can you use that to create your own ▷

In these days of instant gratification, our gardens can help us remember what actually makes us happy

> The simplest of things like a scent or a sound can bring back happy memories in a second

▷ paradisal garden? First, ask yourself what is this garden for? Is it a space for celebration, exhilaration or healing, for example? How is it going to serve your vision of a perfect world?

Many people look for refuge in their gardens, and it's important to make enclosure an aesthetic part of the design, especially in small gardens where every feature needs to contribute. Walls work well for training fruit and keeping out marauders, but it is cheaper – and better for wildlife – to plant a hedge, or clothe a fence with climbers. An edible hedge gives nourishment, and, if there's room, fruiting trees can add to the table, support pollinators and provide shade.

Water is a sacred element, even in rainy UK. In the garden shown on the previous page, harvested rainwater creates a vocabulary of water running throughout the space. Fountains make light and sound dance, and a reflection pool brings sky to earth and creates a theatre of skimming dragonflies, bats and birds. A raised walkway recalls the stepped poetry platforms of the Shalimar Gardens in Lahore, and arbours with a succession of climbers bring flowers and fruit to eye level. The layout uses the geometry evolved through millennia, but glasshouses have replaced pavilions, and materials and planting are adapted to suit the British topography and weather.

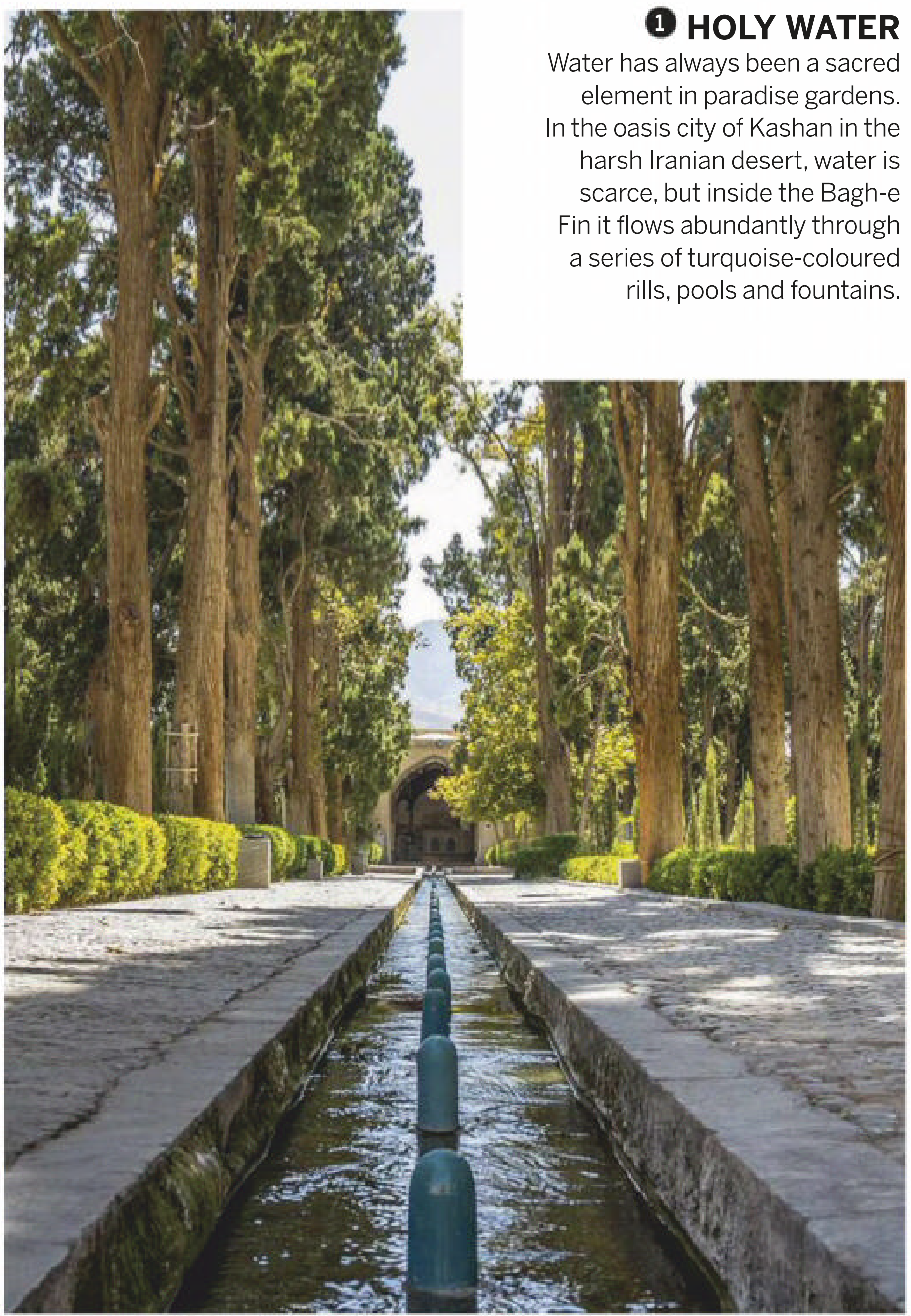
LIKE GARDEN, LIKE OWNER

The Persian garden ideals were adapted and carried along the Silk Road to India in the early 16th century and one of the best-known paradise gardens still in existence is at the Taj Mahal. A garden celebrating love, the shapes and materials were chosen to symbolise the divine feminine by reflecting the light at dawn and sunset to embody different moods.

Our choice of materials reflects our personal mindset, and in my designs reclaimed local materials maintain a link to the land – past and future. The Taj Mahal paradise of soft fruitfulness speaks of fecundity and its original planting of roses and jasmine, scented herbs and fruits are often easier to grow in a western climate. In a classical Paradise garden, everything is perfect, geometrically and symmetrically: proportions, spacing and colours are in perfect harmony and revere the divine. Although this works well in a contained space or in contrast to the barren desert, earthly paradise in the English countryside may feel more comfortable if worn a little looser. The Paradise-style Carpet Garden at Highgrove, for example, is more at ease now than when it was new, as years of gentle wear and self-seeding have softened its lines.

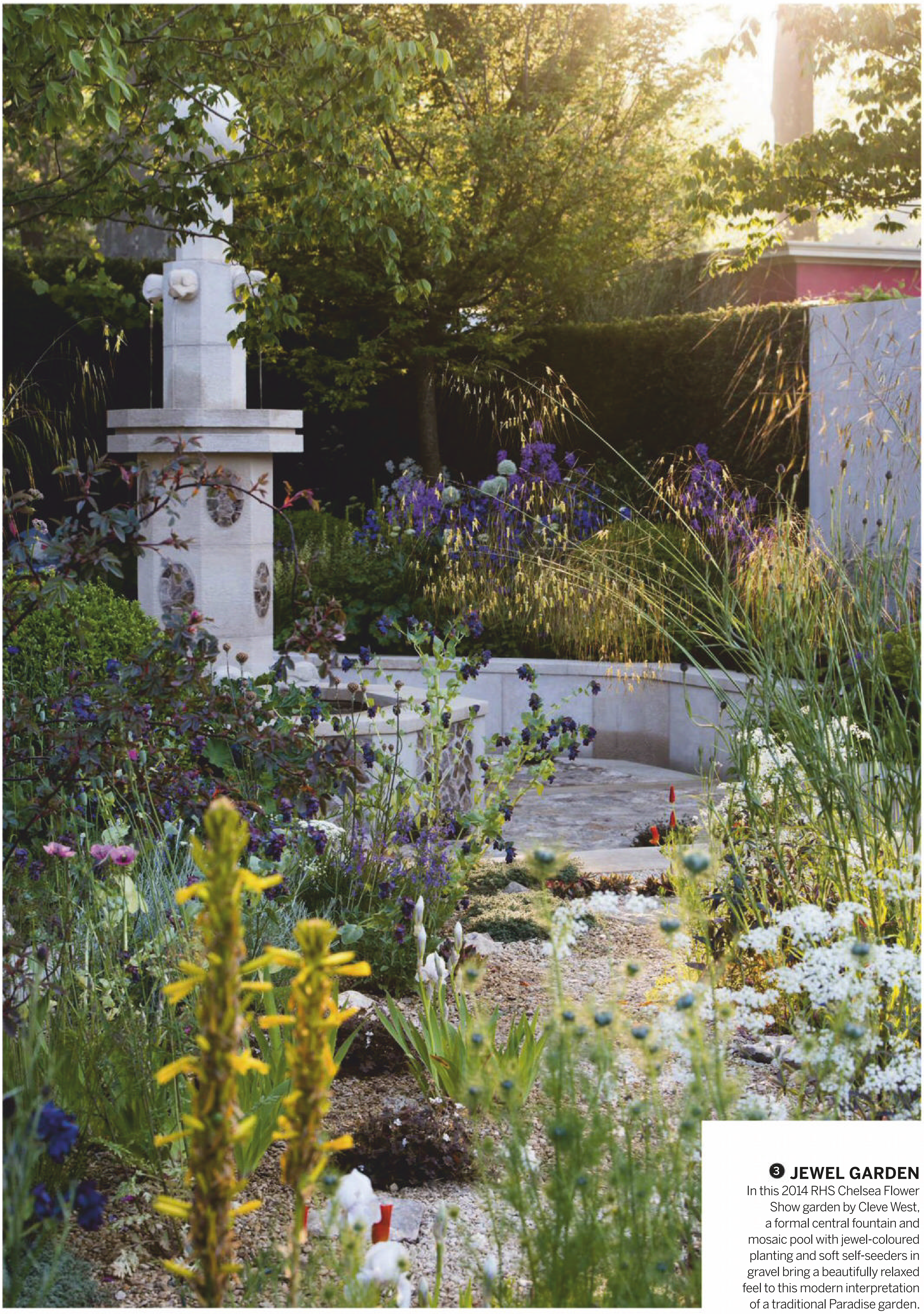
However small the space, we can create vignettes of our personal paradise: in the way a wild rose frames a view, a rustic bird bath splashes beneath a window, a seat curves beneath a plum tree, or thyme creeps between paving stones. These snatches of memory don't have to be large, or to cost the earth, and they will mean different things to each of us. Every time we try something new, we learn a little more about what works and what brings us fulfilment. We think we are shaping a garden, when actually it is shaping us. □

Marian Boswall is a multi-award-winning landscape architect with an international practice, MBLA, based in Kent. marianboswall.com



❶ HOLY WATER
Water has always been a sacred element in paradise gardens. In the oasis city of Kashan in the harsh Iranian desert, water is scarce, but inside the Bagh-e Fin it flows abundantly through a series of turquoise-coloured rills, pools and fountains.

❷ MAGIC CARPET
In the Carpet Garden at Highgrove, chairs from India, wooden doors from Saudi Arabia, statues from other foreign visits and brightly coloured planting aim to create the effect of being inside a Persian carpet.



❸ JEWEL GARDEN

In this 2014 RHS Chelsea Flower Show garden by Cleve West, a formal central fountain and mosaic pool with jewel-coloured planting and soft self-seeders in gravel bring a beautifully relaxed feel to this modern interpretation of a traditional Paradise garden.

1 JEROME C D / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; 2 GAP PHOTOS / HIGHGROVE - A. BUTLER, DESIGNED BY HRH AND MIKE MILLER OF CLIFTON NURSERIES;
3 GAP PHOTOS / JOANNA KOSSAK, DESIGNER: CLEVE WEST, SPONSOR: M&G INVESTMENTS

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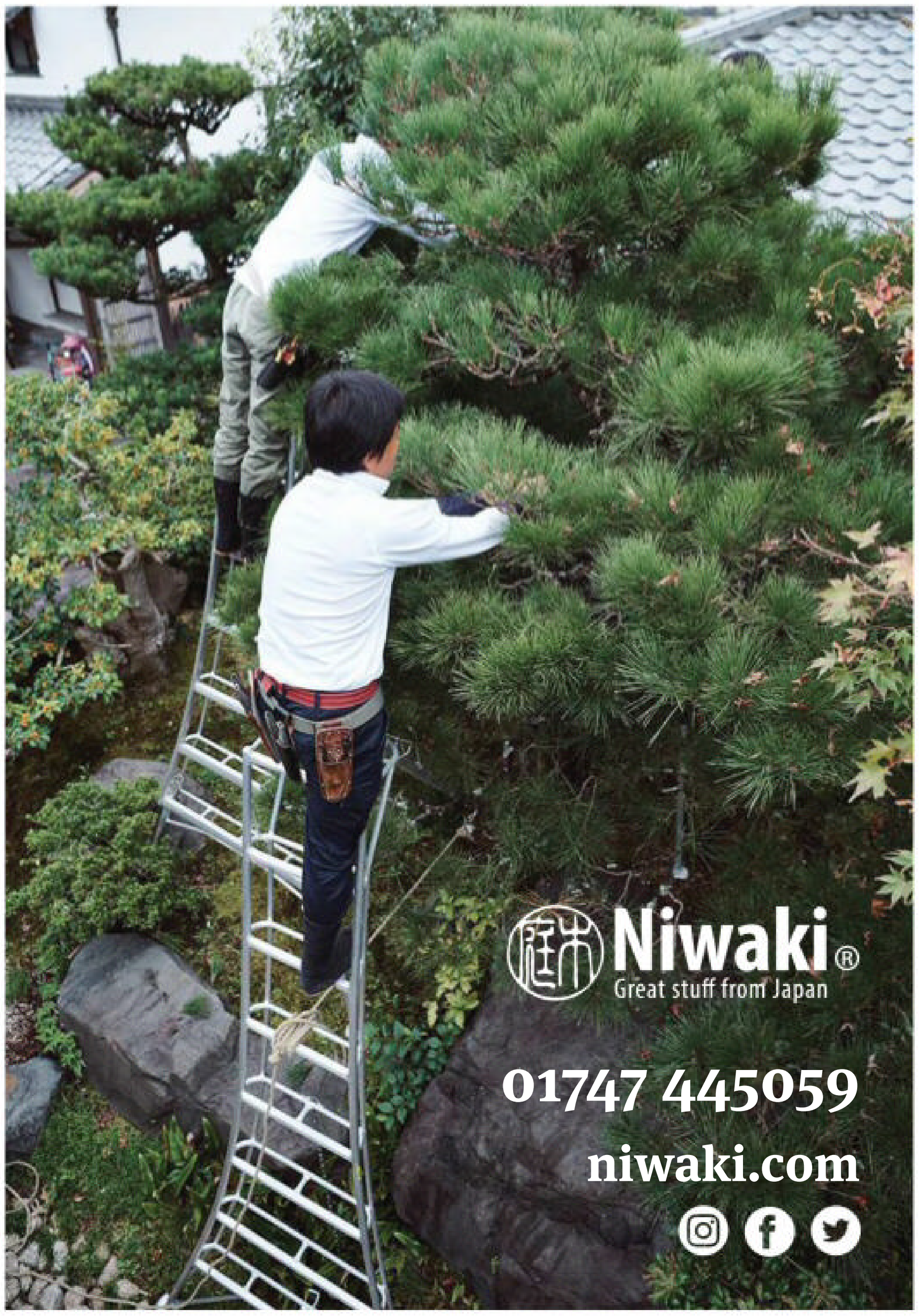

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Garden of Medicinal Plants – Chelsea Physic Garden Photo: R.Alexander

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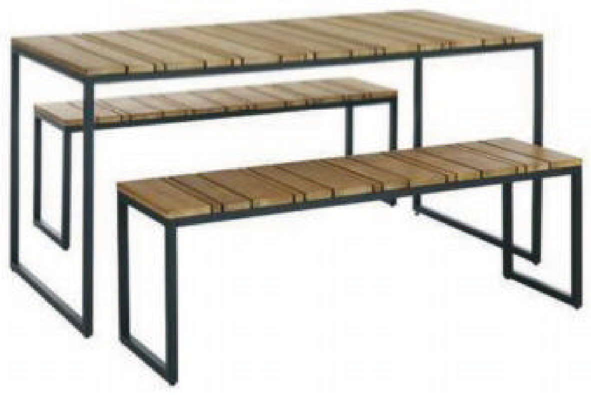
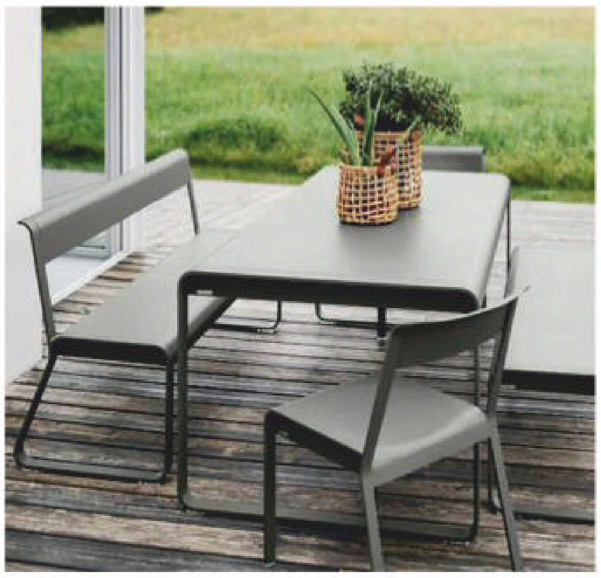
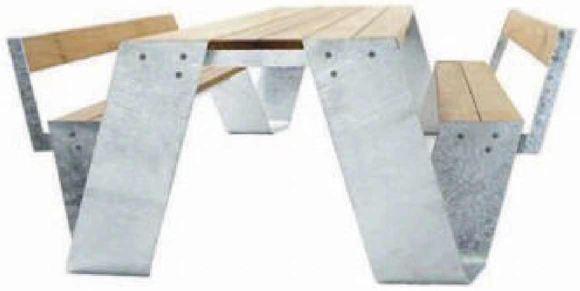


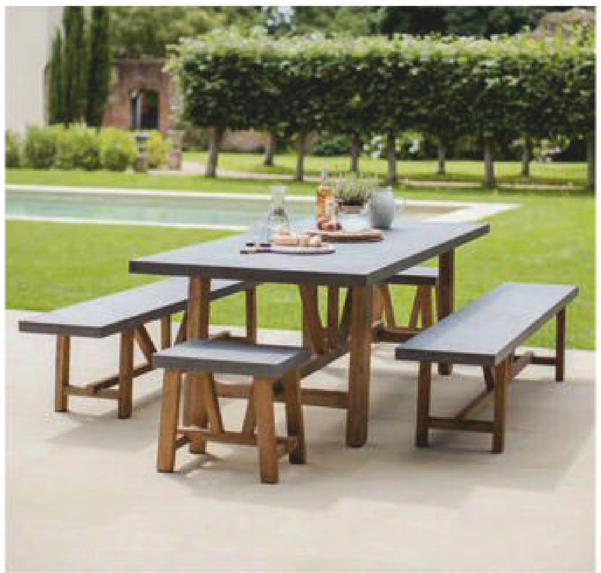
MINIMALIST DESIGN
Raven Garden Set,
£785, Habitat,
0344 499 4686, habitat.co.uk



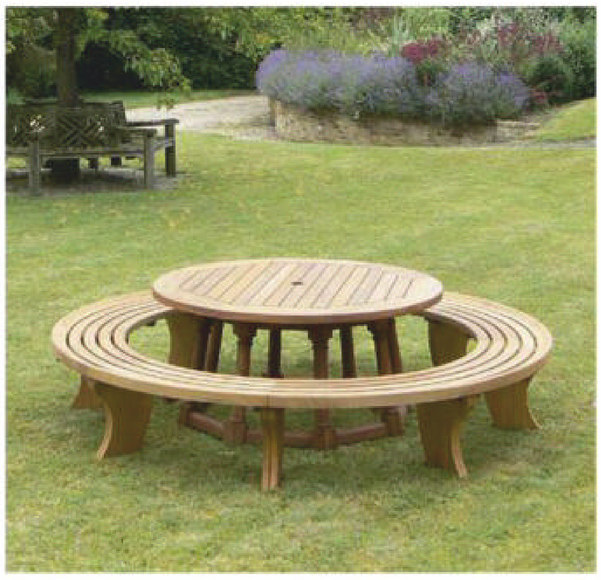
MODERN APPEAL
Bellevie Collection,
£2,954, Fermob
020 8878 1994, barbed.co.uk



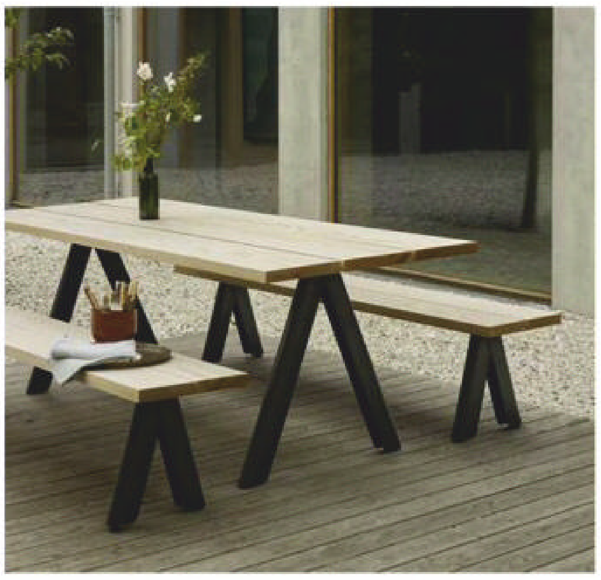
WOOD AND GALVANISED STEEL
Hopper Picnic Bench,
from £3,755, Extremis,
0330 363 0330, houseology.com



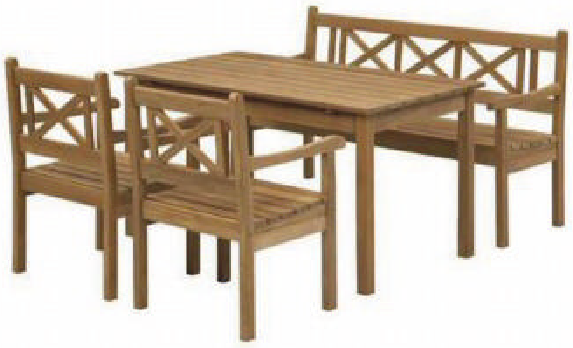
WEATHERPROOF TOP
Chilson Table and Bench Set,
£1,850, Garden Trading,
01993 845559, gardentrading.co.uk



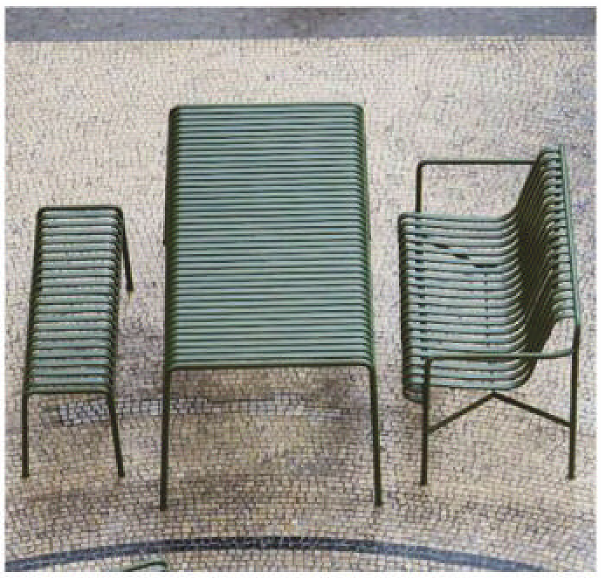
GRACEFUL CURVES
Circular Table & Bench,
from £6,314, Andrew Crace,
01279 842685, andrewcrace.com



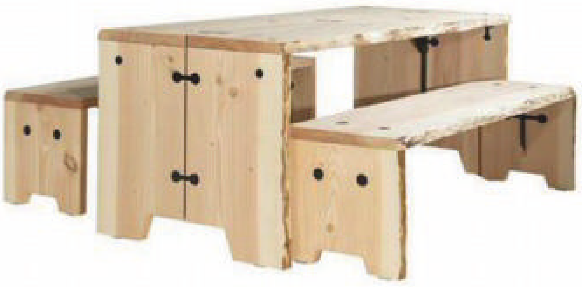
CONTEMPORARY LINES
Overlap Table, £2,799
Overlap Bench, £1,199, Skagerak,
+45 (0)9952 5200, skagerak.dk



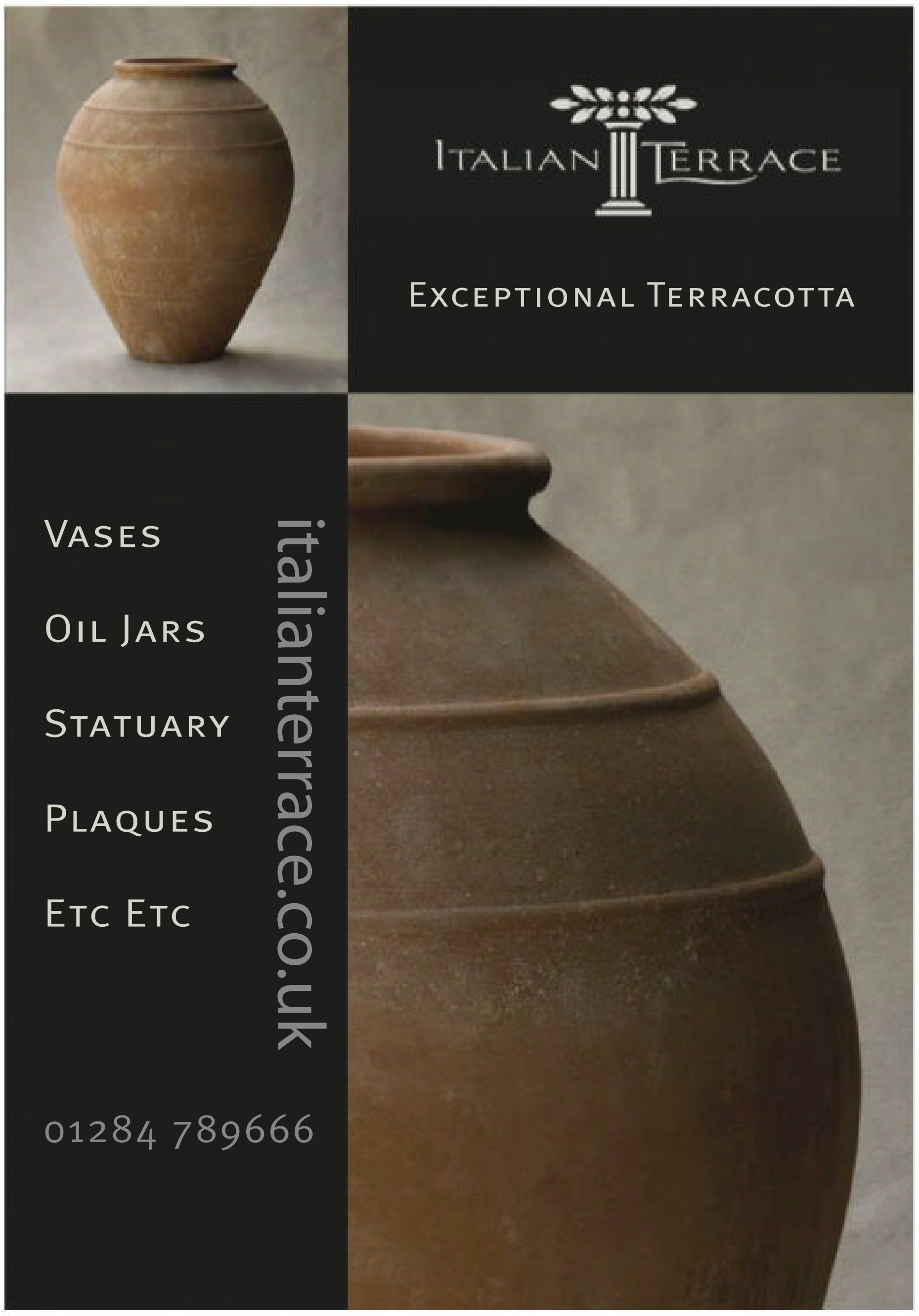
19TH-CENTURY DANISH STYLE
Skagen Set,
£2,646, Skagerak,
+45 (0)9952 5200, skagerak.dk



ELEGANT BUT STRONG
Palissade Collection Olive,
£1,279, HAY,
020 7222 0574, hay.dk



NATURAL LOOK
Raw Forestry Table, from €1,995
Raw Forestry Bench, from €695, Weltevree,
+31 (0)332 037 037, weltevree.eu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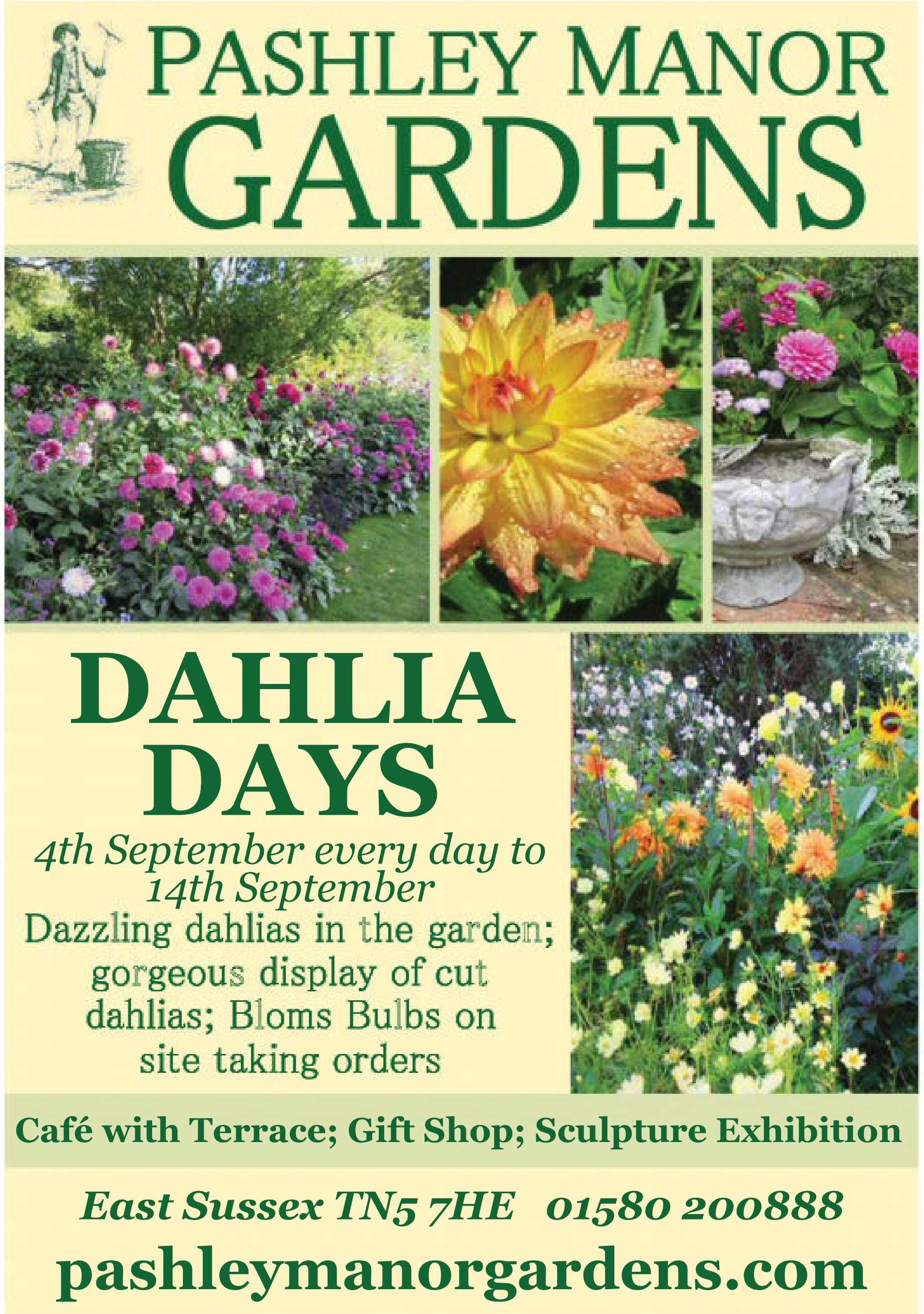
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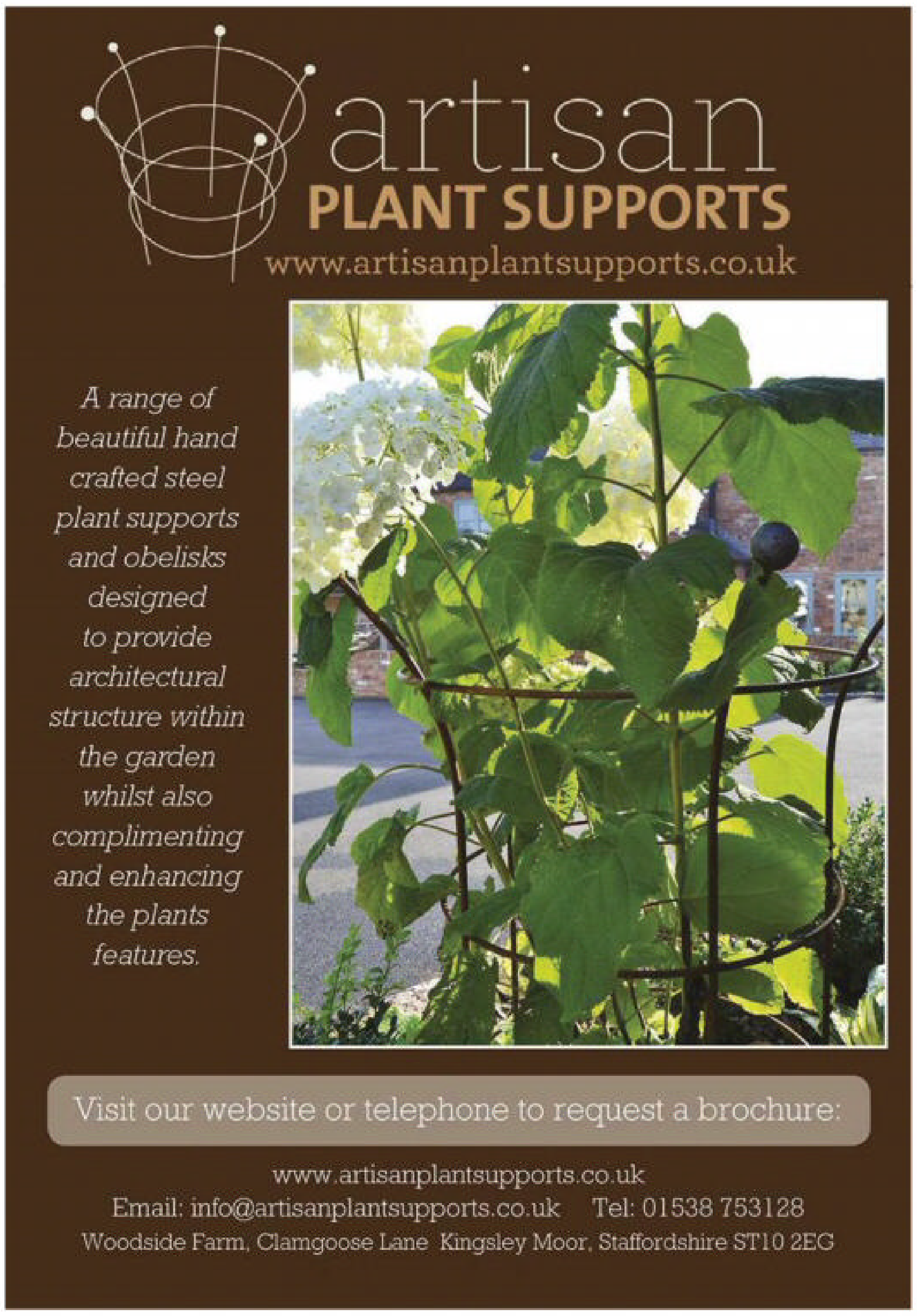
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DOWNTOOLS

Book reviews, back issues, crossword, competition, reader offer

Discover the good life through a profusion of pickles and a delicious diversity of dishes, along with advice and ideas on making the most of your vegetable garden in *The Pig: Tales and Recipes from the Kitchen Garden and Beyond* by Robin Hutson, reviewed on page 102.

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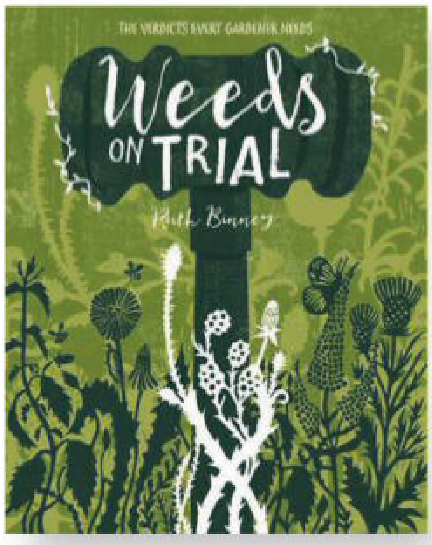
BOOK REVIEWS



WEEDS ON TRIAL

by Ruth Binney

Rydon Publishing, £9.99
ISBN 978-1910821275

A handy little book, packed with a surprising amount of detail, that makes the case for weeds by examining the evidence for and against them.

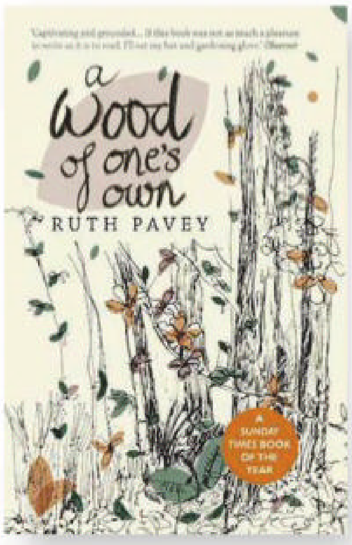
Reviewer Rosanna Morris is a freelance garden writer.

Many gardening books have been published on the subject of weeds, and this one is a refreshing take on what author Ruth Binney calls 'nature's ultimate opportunists'. Do you purge them from your garden or admire and tame them? At a time when nature and wildlife need more help than ever, Binney has come up with the perfect way to examine those plants that might not be wanted where they are growing. She weighs up the evidence for and against them and presents her findings in this snappy, well-crafted book.

The 50 or so weeds on trial are divided into three categories – garden thugs, perennials, and annuals and biennials – and are listed in alphabetical order. Each defendant is given two pages and the evidence is presented for the prosecution and the defence, followed by a verdict. Binney also provides advice on how to treat the plant, and includes extra snippets here and there, such as uses, history, medicinal qualities and edibility. Knotgrass, for example, is a tasty vegetable, while hedge mustard can soothe sore throats.

Among the gamut of plants included are cultivated specimens found in garden centres, so there is everything from charlock and chickweed, Japanese anemone and mint, to bamboo, crocosmia, ground elder, enchanter's nightshade, couch grass, and shepherd's purse. Binney ensures readers are clued up on those that commit serious offences and issues warnings about those that carry diseases or spread like crazy, but also highlights the unsung merits of those that act as magnets for pollinators or cover unsightly garden features.

This comprehensive book is filled with beautiful illustrations, and includes helpful sections on tools for weeding, composting and mulching weeds, and the legal situation pertaining to certain weeds.



A WOOD OF ONE'S OWN

by Ruth Pavey

Duckworth, £9.90
ISBN 978-0715653678

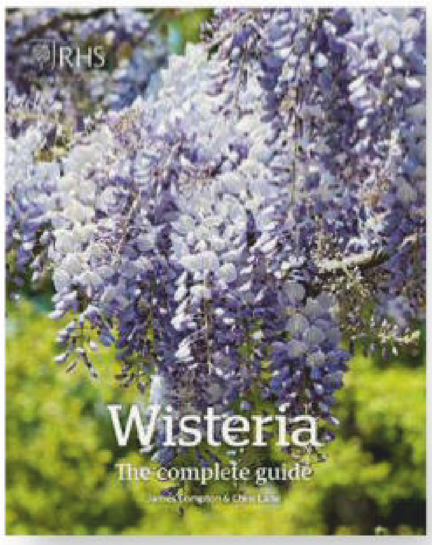
An engaging book on the management of a small West Country wood, its intriguing past and its charming yet wilful inhabitants.

Reviewer Matt Collins is head gardener at the Garden Museum.

Reading Ruth Pavey's gentle account of owning a little piece of British woodland, I was reminded of advice given to me by the wonderful nature writer Richard Mabey, on the subject of pastoral arboriculture: 'A wood is always wiser than you; allow it space and it will always surprise you'. Whether the result of similar guidance or natural inclination, Pavey's light-touch style of woodland management has yielded many delightful surprises, from relic apple trees to ephemeral foxgloves and mullein, from visiting llamas to mysterious 'mistletoe men' in the night. As she reflects: 'some of the great pleasure the wood gives me is [...] where work and planning are not involved. Instead, it is just a matter of being there'.

Bought at auction, Pavey's four-acre Somerset wood presents both a fresh challenge and a renewed connection to the landscape of her childhood. Travelling back and forth from London, she gets to grips with the wild nature of her purchase. New trees are planted, paths cleared, unfamiliar tools wielded and local histories unearthed. These processes are lyrically recounted, bolstered by an enquiring mind and a modesty rare in this field of writing. I particularly enjoyed sections on learning to graft apple scions and embracing nettles, and the first night spent alone in her 'rollalong' cabin. Hand-drawn illustrations by the author embellish the prose, as do carefully chosen quotations with which she shifts its focus.

This is a great read for anyone considering a similar endeavour, blending the observational mastery of HE Bates's *Through the Woods* with the practical application of John Stewart Collis's *The Worm Forgives the Plough*. It is a book alive with the scent of wood smoke and dewy grass.



RHS WISTERIA: THE COMPLETE GUIDE

by James Compton
& Chris Lane

RHS, £40
ISBN 978-1907057885

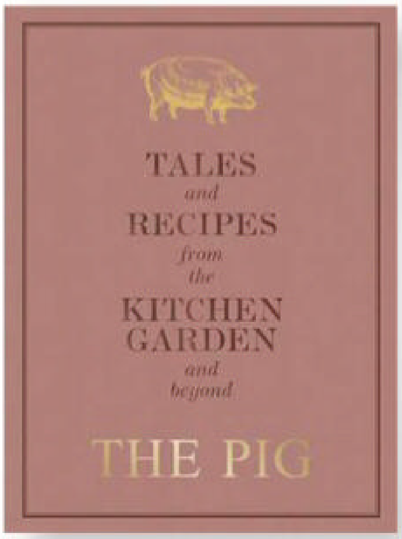
A superb and richly detailed monograph that looks in detail at one of the UK's most popular genera of summer climbing plants.

Reviewer Rory Dusoir is a Kew-trained gardener and writer.

In the short time since its introduction to the West (approximately two centuries), the genus *Wisteria* has twined itself into a position of pre-eminence among climbers and is a ubiquitous part of our horticultural and architectural landscape. Although there are few species, and comparatively little hybridising work has taken place, this monograph by botanist James Compton and nurseryman Chris Lane is more than justified by *Wisteria*'s rich history in cultivation and its huge popularity.

Compton is currently engaged in studying the taxonomy of *Wisteria* and related genera and the authors do not miss the opportunity to describe its morphology and classification in great detail, including a thoroughly researched nomenclatural history and a description of similar plants. This renders certain parts of the book unavoidably technical, but these are leavened by the authors' clear and direct prose and plentiful photographic illustrations. It is quite clear that the authors have a lifetime of horticultural experience growing and appreciating the genus, and the benefit of this is shared masterfully in a generous chapter on cultivation, including the last word on *Wisteria* pests and diseases, establishment, pruning, training and propagation.

Perhaps the most compelling passages of the book are those describing its history in cultivation. It is thrilling to imagine the excitement with which the earliest introductions were distributed in the West. Accounts of how the genus won its place in western culture, as well as its venerable history as a cultural icon in the East, are underpinned by a further chapter on some of the most famous, oldest and largest specimens on both sides of the world. An indispensable book.



THE PIG: TALES AND RECIPES FROM THE KITCHEN GARDEN AND BEYOND

by Robin Hutson

Mitchell Beazley, £30
ISBN 978-1784725570

From the team behind the 'restaurants with rooms', comes a book packed with provenance and recipes from the heart of the kitchen garden.

Reviewer Anna Greenland is an organic grower and consultant.

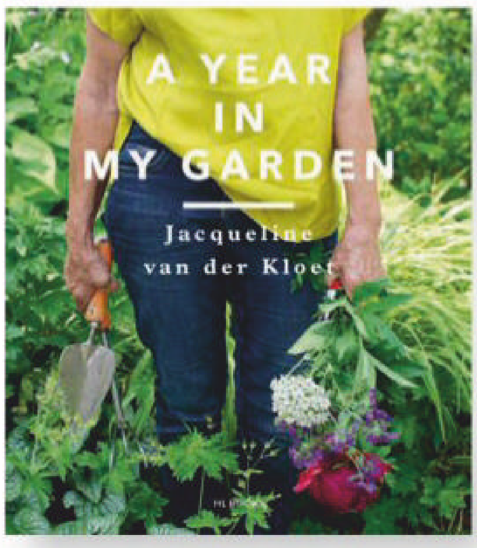
With many restaurants now hopping on the plot-to-plate train, there are plenty of massacred rosemary bushes in raised beds billed as kitchen gardens. Having visited a couple of The Pigs, I've seen it done right. What is grown in abundance in the gardens appears on the menu, and now on the pages of this book.

Those who revel in harvests from their vegetable garden, will find plenty of new recipe inspiration here. Kale Tempura, Cylindra Beetroot Toasts, Salad Burnet Dressing, and Apricot Tart with 'Ginger Rosemary' and Sweet Cicely. Plus a profusion of pickles, herbal cocktails and infusions, such as Pelargonium Vodka. As founder Robin Hutson says: 'Right from the beginning, we wanted the kitchen garden to be the heart and soul of the place and to play a big part in influencing the menu.'

There are tips from the garden and a brief Beginners Guide to Growing Veg, but this isn't necessarily a gardening book, or specifically a recipe book. It is a celebration of the good life adventure that The Pig has embarked on, from raising livestock, keeping bees, foraging and building a smokehouse. Plus it's an ode to the staff and local producers who have supported it. For die-hard Pig fans there are also sections on how the company runs its festivals, decks out its hotels and creates its outdoor feasts.

This is a quality publication with beautiful photography and illustrations. It reads almost like a novel, with a conversational style that avoids any danger of smugness. What shines through is a genuine passion for homegrown produce. Having grown for chefs for more than a decade, I know the pitfalls – it is wonderful to see when the collaboration between kitchen and garden truly sings.

BOOK REVIEWS



A YEAR IN MY GARDEN
by Jacqueline van der Kloet

Hélène Lesger Books, £35
ISBN 978-9082683691

An engaging book that guides us through a year in designer van der Kloet's Dutch garden, jam-packed with take-away knowledge.

Reviewer Annie Guilfoyle is a garden designer and lecturer.

The name Jacqueline van der Kloet is synonymous with designing with bulbs but in this, her tenth book, she concentrates on her own garden De Theetuin, in Weesp in the Netherlands. Beautifully photographed and arranged over 12 chapters corresponding to the months of the year, the book begins with September, which, as van der Kloet explains, 'is the month which makes it most obvious that "the garden" is a continuous process, without a clear beginning or end'.

Intended as a guide through her garden rather than a diary, van der Kloet aims to give the reader the feeling that they are being led by the hand, gaining a better understanding of what they should be doing in their own garden and of how the garden will affect them. Seasonal musings describe the work that van der Kloet will focus on in the garden, such as bulb planting or pruning.

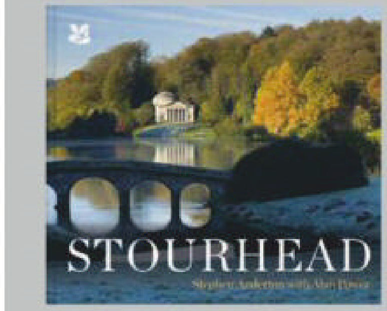
We are also taken on occasional detours to discover her design work, such as Martha Stewart's US garden, Disneyland in Paris and, closer to home, de Keukenhof Gardens in the Netherlands.

Each chapter includes a photo spread showing a particular view in the garden over 12 months – a clever technique to illustrate the importance of seasonal interest, something that is so easily overlooked.

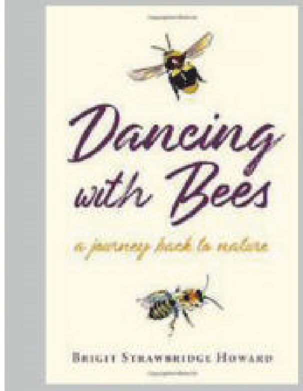
Van der Kloet doesn't shy away from the failures and tougher aspects of gardening, such as how she dealt with the devastation wrought by the box tree moth. She even includes a list of the plants she regrets having planted. It is this honesty and openness about her experiences as a gardener and designer that makes the book so engaging. I feel as if I have been led through the garden and learned everything about it, warts and all.

Other books

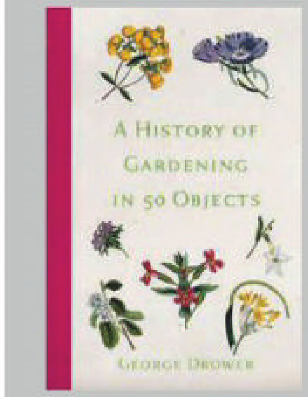
From great estates to garden tools, this month's books reveal the places, people and objects that shaped horticultural history



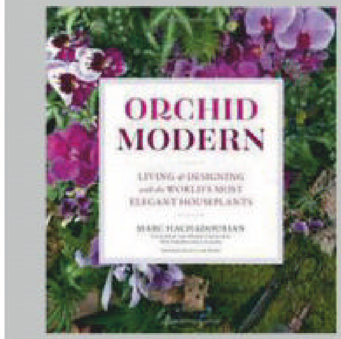
STOURHEAD
by Stephen Anderton
with Alan Power
National Trust Books, £16.99
ISBN 978-1911358596
The story of one of England's greatest landscape gardens and the generations who developed and preserved it.



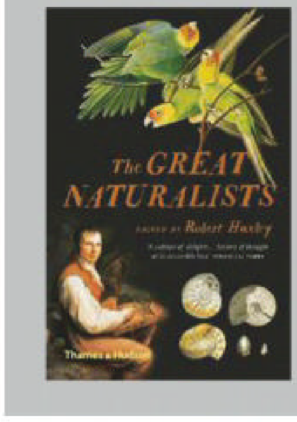
DANCING WITH BEES
by Brigit Strawbridge Howard
Chelsea Green Publishing, £20
ISBN 978-1603588485
An account of how one woman reconnected with nature, taking time to notice the small things and discover a passion for bees.



A HISTORY OF GARDENING IN 50 OBJECTS
by George Drower
History Press, £20
ISBN 978-0750991308
From the wheelbarrow to the Wardian case, George Drower looks at objects great and small that have changed horticulture.



ORCHID MODERN
by Marc Hachadourian
Timber Press, £18.99
ISBN 978-1604698169
A beautifully photographed history of orchid cultivation, with tips for caring for the plants, and decorative projects for displaying them.



THE GREAT NATURALISTS
Edited by Robert Huxley
Thames & Hudson, £10.99
ISBN 978-0500294796
A journey through the very first ideas about the natural world, told through the stories of those who were fascinated by it, from Aristotle to Asa Gray.

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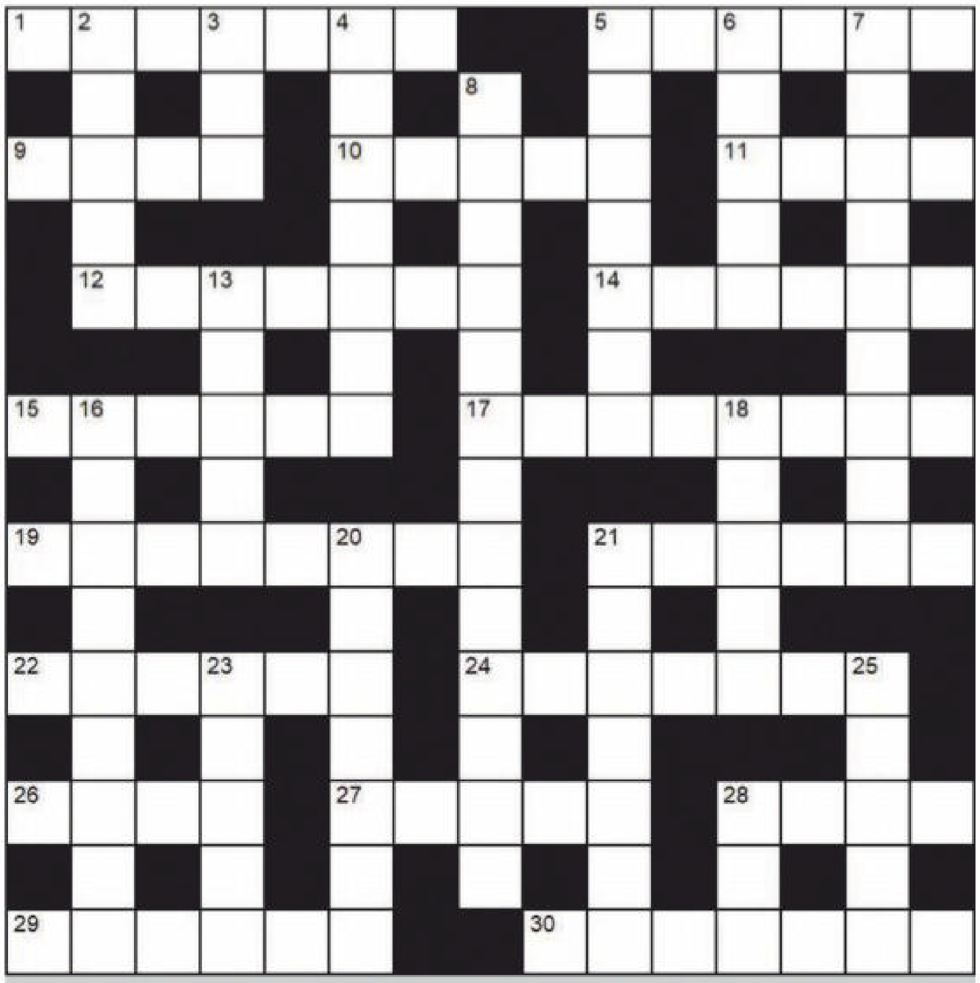
Crossword



ACROSS

1 Regal name of a long-cupped white narcissus (7)
5 Cherry-ripe colour… in acer is exceptional (6)
9 A surfeit of produce (4)
10 Genus of black pepper and betel – after 'Maris'? (5)
11 Pinch off tip of growing stem (4)
12 *Cynara cardunculus* with purple thistle flowers – one in cordon, perhaps (7)
14 Flowering shrub in *Rhododendron* genus (6)
15 Genus of creeping plant with star-shaped flowers – honey-producers first-class return (6)
17 Magnolia with purple buds opening to pink – range of colours (8)
19 A pale-blue or pink lacecap hydrangea – symbol of happiness? (8)
21 Vigorous, white-flowering daphne – Nepalese soldier (6)
22 Allium plants that may produce a tear (6)
24 Plant genus that includes huge-leaved 'giant rhubarb' (7)
26 Edible fruit of Chinese gooseberry – New Zealander? (4)
27 Cruciferous plant's pungent-tasting leaves used in salads (5)
28 Gets the better of fruit seeds? (4)
29 Species of Spring crocus… in cavern usually! (6)
30 Its genus is *Quercus* (3,4)

DOWN

2 'Endless ill-will' describes an acid in eg apple juice (5)
3 Decay found in *Protea* (3)
4 Genus of NZ kowhai plants in pea family – has poor assortment (7)
5 Describes heart-shaped leaves (sort of Art Deco!) (7)
6 *Echeveria* ___ turns red before flowering – in Truro seashore (5)
7 *Cotinus coggygria*'s common name (5,4)
8 Common name for *Yucca gloriosa* – possibly shading grapes (7,6)
13 Strawberry with glossy, conical fruits… I put in pink wine (5)
16 Wild rose, sadly inelegant (9)
18 Number of falls and standards on iris – or thereabouts! (5)
20 Food for a pitcher plant? Scent is dreadful (7)
21 Genus of plants with broom-like flowers (7)
23 Lavender-blue geranium – needs oxygen and iron possibly (5)
25 After oak, this fruit is a nut gall (5)
28 To remove eg a cherry stone, tip over (3)

Solutions to this month's crossword will be printed next month

SOLUTIONS TO AUGUST'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Trumps **5** Cytisus **9** Sundial **10/24** Prayer plant **11** Scar **13** Eruca **14** Halo **15** Ornate **16** Acid soil **18** Composts **21** Pagoda **25** Rare **26** Arnica **27** Kneeler **29** Shelled **30** Shandy.

DOWN 2 RHS **3** Menorca **4** Spineless **5** Calluna **6** Typha **7** Stachys **8** Spellbinder **12** Caryopteris **17** Impatiens **19** Perlite **20** Stalked **22** Gorilla **24** Pearl **28/23** Red Star.

READER COMPETITION

Win an elegant plant obelisk from Harrod Horticultural, worth £290

With over 60 years of UK manufacturing expertise, Harrod Horticultural produces an exclusive selection of garden products designed and made in the UK.

The extensive range offers gardeners a choice of stylish designs for their functional garden structures and accessories. Best sellers include raised beds, crop protection cages and netting, decorative plant supports including arches, pergolas and obelisks and metal planters. To see Harrod Horticultural's full product range go to **harrodhorticultural.com**

COMPETITION

Enter our competition to win one of three Steel Grand Pyramid Obelisks from Harrod Horticultural, worth £290 each. This sturdy yet elegant obelisk, endorsed by the RHS, has been designed to create real impact in the garden. Made of hard-wearing steel and powder-coated in matte black, the obelisk is weatherproof and maintenance free with a ten-year framework guarantee. It stands at 2.5m to make it an impressive-looking plant support, perfect for larger climbing plants, such as roses.

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1 The Promoter is Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited. **2** The promotion is open to all residents of the UK, including the Channel Islands, aged 18 years or older, except the Promoter's employees or contractors and anyone connected with the promotion or their direct family members. **3** By entering the promotion, the participants agree: (a) to be bound by these terms and conditions; (b) that their surname and county of residence may be released if they win a prize; and (c) that should they win the promotion, their name and likeness may be used by the Promoter for pre-arranged promotional purposes. **4** Entries received after the closing date of the promotion will not be considered. **5** Entrants must supply to Immediate Media Company Limited their full name, email address and daytime telephone number. The Promoter will use entrants' personal details in accordance with the Immediate Privacy Policy (immediatemedia.co.uk/privacy-policy). **6** Only one entry will be permitted per person, regardless of method of entry. Bulk entries made by third parties will not be permitted. **7** Only one winner will be chosen. The winning entrant will be the first correct entry drawn at random from all the correct entries after the closing date. The Promoter's decision as to the winner is final and no correspondence relating to the promotion will be entered into. The Promoter may share the details of the winner with the prize provider for the purposes of fulfilling the prize. **8** The closing date for entries is 11.59pm on 30 September 2019. **9** The winner will be notified within 4 days of the close of the promotion by email. If the winner cannot be contacted, or fails to respond within 7 days of such notification being sent, the Promoter reserves the right to offer the prize to a runner up, or to re-offer the prize in any future promotion.
10 There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Prize must be taken as stated and cannot be deferred. The Promoter reserves the right to substitute the prize with one of the same or greater value. **11** The Promoter reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions or to cancel, alter or amend the promotion at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, or if circumstances arise outside of its control. **12** The Promoter does not accept any responsibility for lost, delayed or fraudulent entries. **13** The Promoter excludes liability to the full extent permitted by law for any loss, damage or injury occurring to the participant arising from his or her entry into the promotion or occurring to the winners arising from his or her acceptance of a prize. **14** The promotion is subject to the laws of England.

TO ENTER

Answer the following question and send this form to: *Gardens Illustrated* 277/Harrod Horticultural, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA.
Alternatively, enter online at gardensillustrated.com/competitions

Complete the name of this popular climbing rose – suitable for growing on an obelisk.

***Rosa* 'Noisette ____________'**

Name ____________

Tel ____________

Email ____________

CLOSING DATE **30 September 2019**

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READER OFFER

10% off your order and free P&P worth £4.95* at Sarah Raven

Delphinium border collection

Eryngium bourgatii 'Picos Blue'

Anemone x hybrida 'Honorine Jobert'

Autumn is an excellent time to plant perennials. The roots will settle in well before spring giving you stronger plants next year. Sarah Raven's perennials are all top performers that will look great for months at a stretch. *Gardens Illustrated* readers can receive 10% off, plus free P&P worth £4.95* across the entire Sarah Raven range, until the end of September. Here are some ideas to inspire you.

Delphinium Border Collection
Complete your summer border with this selection of delphiniums – the most statuesque spires for any garden. Includes 'Black Knight' and 'Magic Fountain Sky Blue'.
Product code 200262
6 x 9cm plants (3 of each) £24.95
Offer price £22.45

***Eryngium bourgatii* 'Picos Blue'**
One of the bluest of the beautiful sea hollies, with delicate whorls of spikes around the central egg. Bees and butterflies love these and the seedheads last well into winter.
Product code 200314
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Product code 200502
1 x 9cm plant £4.95 **Offer price £4.45**
3 x 9cm plants £12.95 **Offer price £11.65**

HOW TO ORDER

- **Online** Visit sarahraven.com and enter offer code GIL19SEPT when placing your order.
- **By phone** call 0345 092 0283 and quote offer code GIL19SEPT.

OFFER CLOSES

30 September 2019.

DON'T FORGET YOUR BULBS

September is the time to order your autumn bulbs, including Sarah Raven's stunning tulip collections. Use your offer code to receive 10% off plus free P&P*. See the full range at **sarahraven.com**

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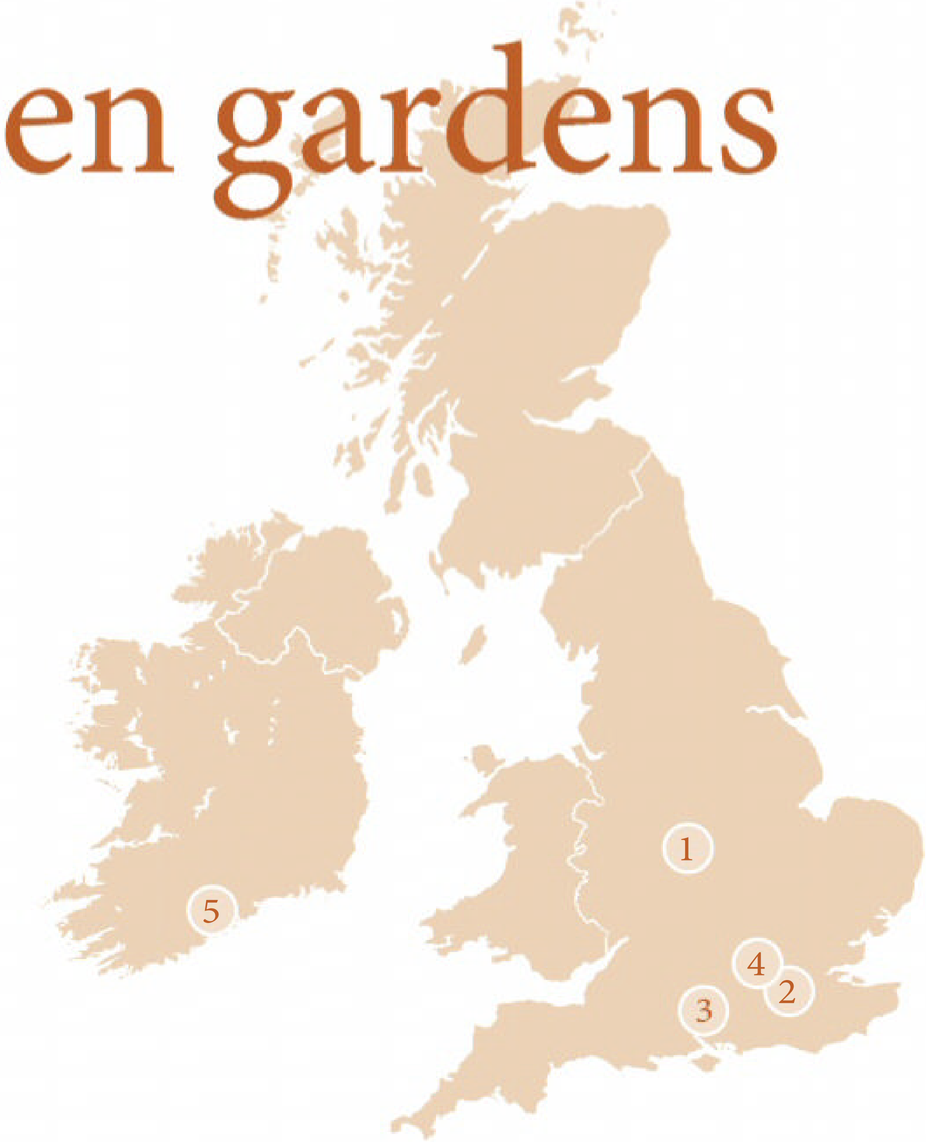
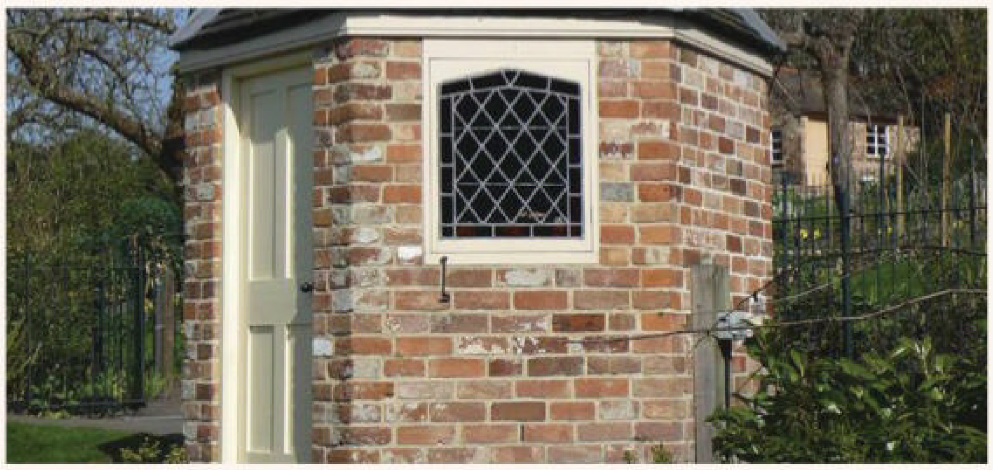
* UK only. This offer is subject to availability. Offer can be used once and not in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Free P&P applies to standard delivery only. Previous purchases are not valid. Offer not valid on sale items, courses, gift vouchers, gift wrap or products bought from the Perch Hill shop. Featured products will be despatched from late September 2019.

Discover kitchen gardens

Get a real taste of the season in these fabulous gardens





1 HILL CLOSE GARDENS TRUST

Hill Close Gardens is a unique set of 16 Victorian detached gardens. Each has its own character and charm, reflecting the personality of its past owners. HCG offers guided tours for groups, year-round events and workshops, off-site talks, venue hire, a weekend tearoom during summer, plant sales and more.

Bread & Meat Close, Warwick CV34 6HF | hillclosegardens.com

©National Trust Images/Juliet D'Costa.

2 CHARTWELL

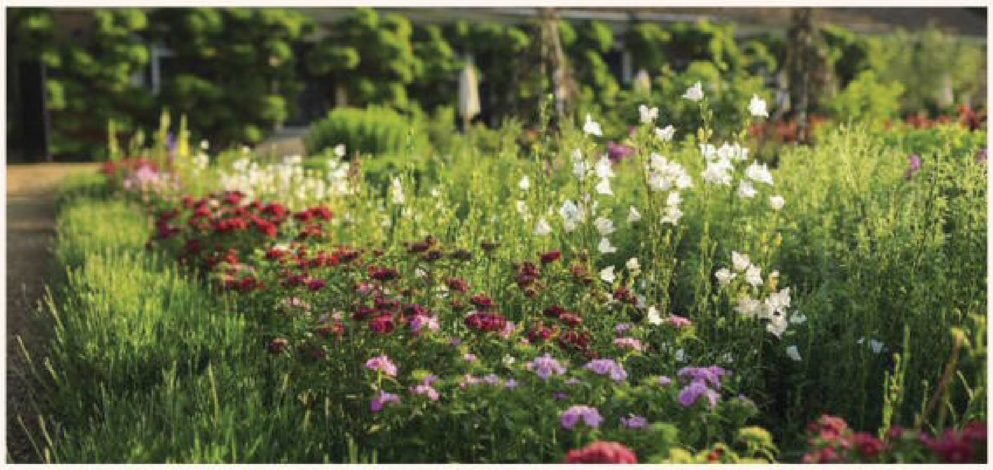
Every autumn the Walled Garden is full of ripe vegetables ready to be picked. Once grown to feed Winston Churchill and his family, you can now try some in dishes from the café. Apples from the Chartwell Orchard, just outside the walls, are picked to make our very own Chartwell Apple Juice available from the shop.

Westerham, Kent, TN16 1PS | nationaltrust.org.uk/chartwell

3 MOTTISFONT'S KITCHEN GARDEN

Celebrating its first anniversary, Mottisfont's Kitchen Garden embodies the property's medieval history and productive past. Long pergolas inspired by cloisters are covered with hanging gourds, and raised beds bursting with produce and floral colour surround a central water feature.

Nr Romsey, Hampshire SO51 0LP | nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont



4 HAM HOUSE AND GARDEN, NATIONAL TRUST

This atmospheric 17th-century walled garden is a celebration of the past, with a modern sensibility. All the gardens have been lovingly re-created, while constantly evolving to keep the garden's original spirit alive. We use organic principles to encourage wildlife and plants to thrive in a place that everyone can enjoy.

Richmond, Surrey TW10 7RS | nationaltrust.org.uk/hamhouse

5 BALLYMALOE COOKERY SCHOOL ORGANIC FARM AND GARDENS

Walk through the little wooden gate at the entrance to Ballymaloe Cookery School and step into a veritable Eden. Open Monday to Saturday 11am–5.30pm, closed Sunday.

Shanagarry, Co. Cork, Ireland P25 R274 | +353 21 4646785 2 | cookingisfun.ie

Nursery Collection

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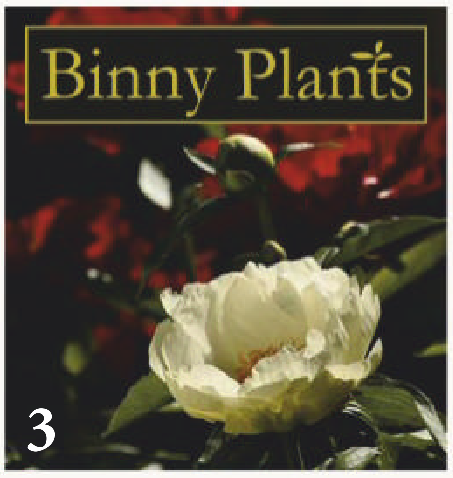

Open Weekend
14th & 15th September
9

1. HOW GREEN NURSERY

We are a friendly, family run trade nursery in Hever, Kent. We are offering an exclusive Public Open Weekend on 7–8 September. Refreshments, delicious cakes and great quality plants all available.

howgreennursery.co.uk | 01732 700382

2. MEADOWGATE NURSERY

A family-run, independent Nursery, specialising in Ornamental Grasses. Over ten years experience in growing a diverse range of grasses. We offer tailored advice on the use and care of the grasses we sell.

meadowgatenursery.co.uk | 07736 523262

3. BINNY PLANTS

Growers of 300 different Herbaceous, Intersectional and Tree Peonies. Over 1,500 Scottish grown perennials, grasses, ferns online. Full colour Peony catalogue ready in September. 4 x 1st class stamp please.

binnyplants.com | contact@binnyplants.com

4. WOOTTENS OF WENHASTON

Plant specialists based in Suffolk. Growing and propagating perennials and offering a mail-order service. 20% off mail order throughout September using code GISEPT20 (exclusions apply).

woottensplants.com | 01502 478258

5. EDULIS NURSERY

The nursery grows an eclectic mix of rare plants, including a large selection of unusual edible plants as well as many rare shady plants. Most plants in the nursery are hardy and relatively easy to grow.

edulis.co.uk | 07802 812781

6. WEASDALE NURSERIES LTD

Hardy trees and shrubs from hardy beginnings at an elevation of 260m above sea level. Ask for a copy of our splendid 126-page mail-order catalogue today.

weasdale.com | 015396 23246

7. HARPERLY HALL

Growers of alpine, woodland plants and unusual perennials, many from our own breeding programme. Hassle free mail-order service. Open seven days a week. Six times RHS Chelsea gold medalist.

harperleyhallfarmnurseries.co.uk

8. BEETHAM NURSERIES

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beethamnurseries.co.uk | 015395 63630

9. LANGTHORNS PLANTERY

Don't miss our open weekend for a tour around the gardens, a cream tea and a relaxed wander around our vast range of more than 5,000 carefully chosen ornamental plants, shrubs and trees.

langthorns.com | 01371 872611

10. HARE SPRING COTTAGE PLANTS

National Collection Holder of Camassia and Sidalcea. Order Camassia bulbs now for planting this autumn. Hardy plants grown in North Yorkshire.

harespringcottageplants.co.uk

11. HARDY'S COTTAGE GARDEN PLANTS

We supply a wide range of home produced herbaceous perennials, which are grown outdoors in peat free compost, and over 1,200 plant varieties.

hardysplants.co.uk | 01256 896533

12. OLD COURT NURSERIES

Choose plants from the National Collection of Michaelmas daisies and a great range of other late-season perennials. Mail-order catalogue available. Visit the nursery and adjoining Picton Garden May–20 Oct.

autumnasters.co.uk | 01684 540416

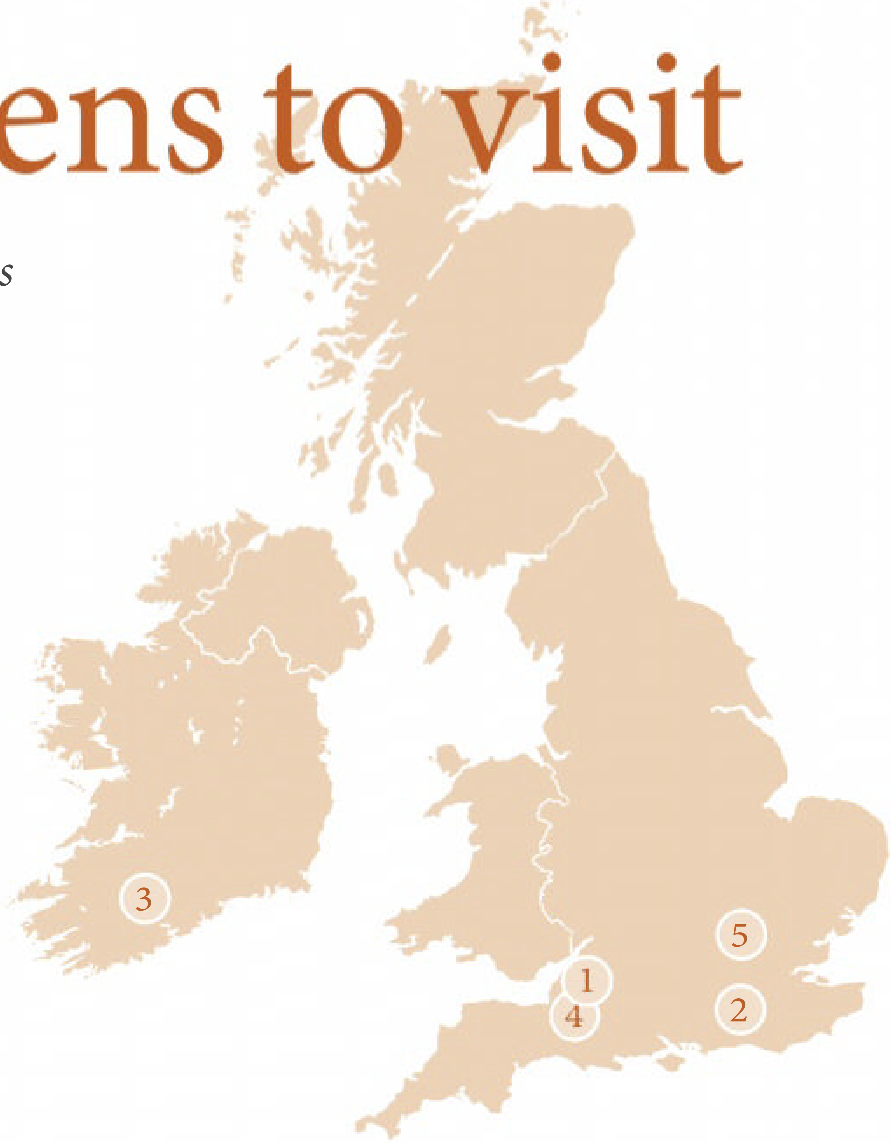
Gorgeous gardens to visit

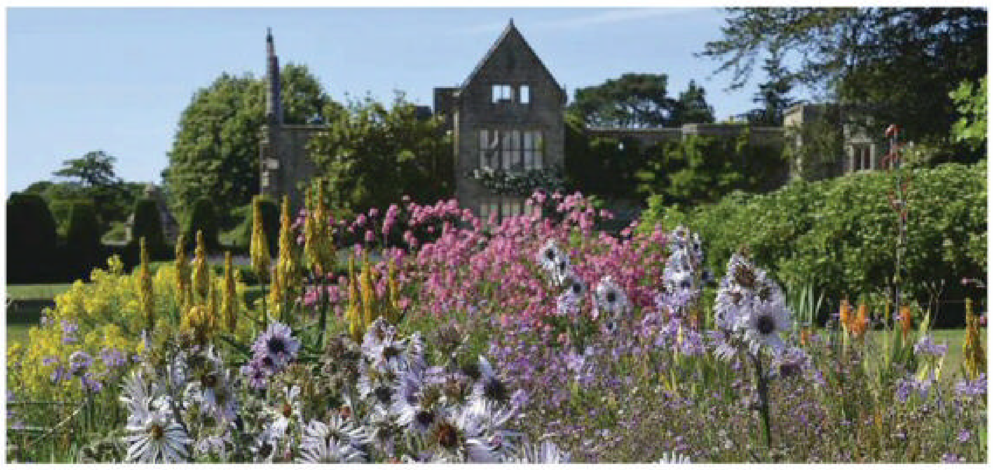
Autumn is a great time to visit this collection of stunning gardens

1 THE ETHICUREAN

Self-taught chefs and owners Iain and Matthew source as much produce as possible from within the Victorian walled garden, working closely with head gardener Mark Cox. The menu changes throughout the year in accordance with the five seasons of the garden: scarcity, growth, fruiting, harvest and festivities.

Wrington, Bristol BS40 5SA | 01934 863713 | theethicurean.com





2 NYMANS

The South African meadow delights with a visually stunning, fluid design that creates a horizontal plane of dramatic colour punctuated with vertical accents. With herbaceous perennials, bulbs, daisies and annuals, colour is turned up to the max with playful textures and bold colours.

West Sussex RH17 6EB | 01444 405250 | nationaltrust.org.uk/nymans

3 BLARNEY CASTLE & GARDENS

Visit the prehistoric Fern Garden, our deadly Poison Garden, and our magical Rock Close. Stroll by the lake, riverside and woodlands or through the dazzling arboretums and herbaceous borders in all their summer splendour. But don't forget to kiss the famous Blarney Stone! Café and shops on site.

Blarney, Cork, Ireland | +353 21 438 5252 | blarneycastle.ie

4 THE BISHOP'S PALACE & GARDENS

Over 14 acres of spectacular RHS partner gardens, including picturesque, romantic, formal and Victorian styles, a wildflower arboretum, specimen trees, alongside waterfalls, well pools, a moat, and a stunning medieval palace. Book now for the Summer Outdoor Theatre Season.

Wells, Somerset BA5 2PD | 01749 988111 | bishopspalace.org.uk

5 HISTORY & HERITAGE AT SHUTTLEWORTH

The Swiss Garden at Shuttleworth was created by Lord Ongley in the 1820s with 13 structures and intriguing vistas in nine acre grounds. Embellished with Victorian features during the 1870s, it nestles adjacent to The Shuttleworth Collection. Open all year round except Christmas.

Bedfordshire SG18 9EP | shuttleworth.org/swissgarden | 01767 627927

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Autumn Essentials

From beautiful craftsmanship to handmade pots and practical accessories, we can help to make your autumn garden special

HOTBIN COMPOSTING

RHS Chelsea Garden Product of the Year 2019 winner, the HOTBIN Mini composter enables one to two person households with compact gardens to compost tidily and efficiently. Reaching hot-composting temperatures of 40–60°c, all food and garden waste including meat and bones can be composted in 30–90 days. UK manufactured and 100% recyclable.

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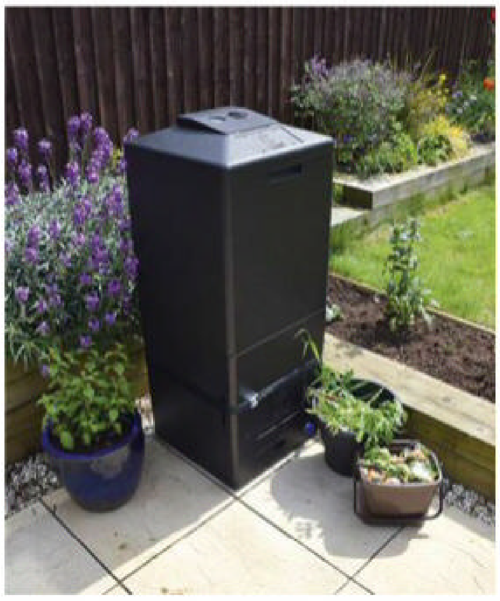
hotbincomposting.com



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01273 401827
mistycashmere.co.uk

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thedrybootcompany.com

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01462 486777
lightingforgardens.com

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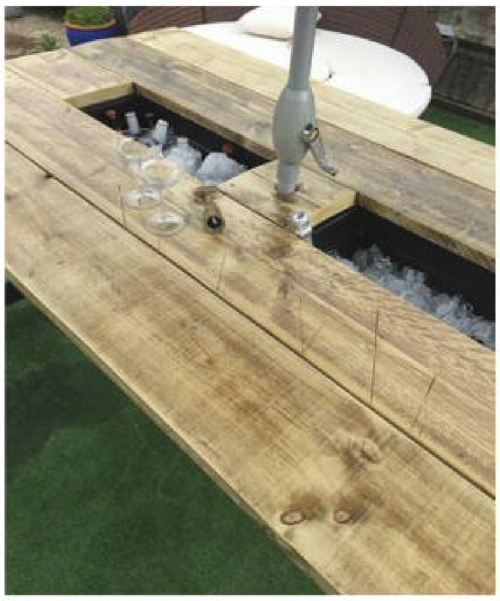
@BlueChilliWorks
bluechilli.works



ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

The Architectural Heritage garden planter and ornament collection is the first choice for many award-winning garden designers, who use our wide range of shapes and bespoke sizes to suit gardens, courtyards and terraces. Alongside fountains and seating, Architectural Heritage also sell a fine selection of garden antiques.

01386 584414
architectural-heritage.co.uk

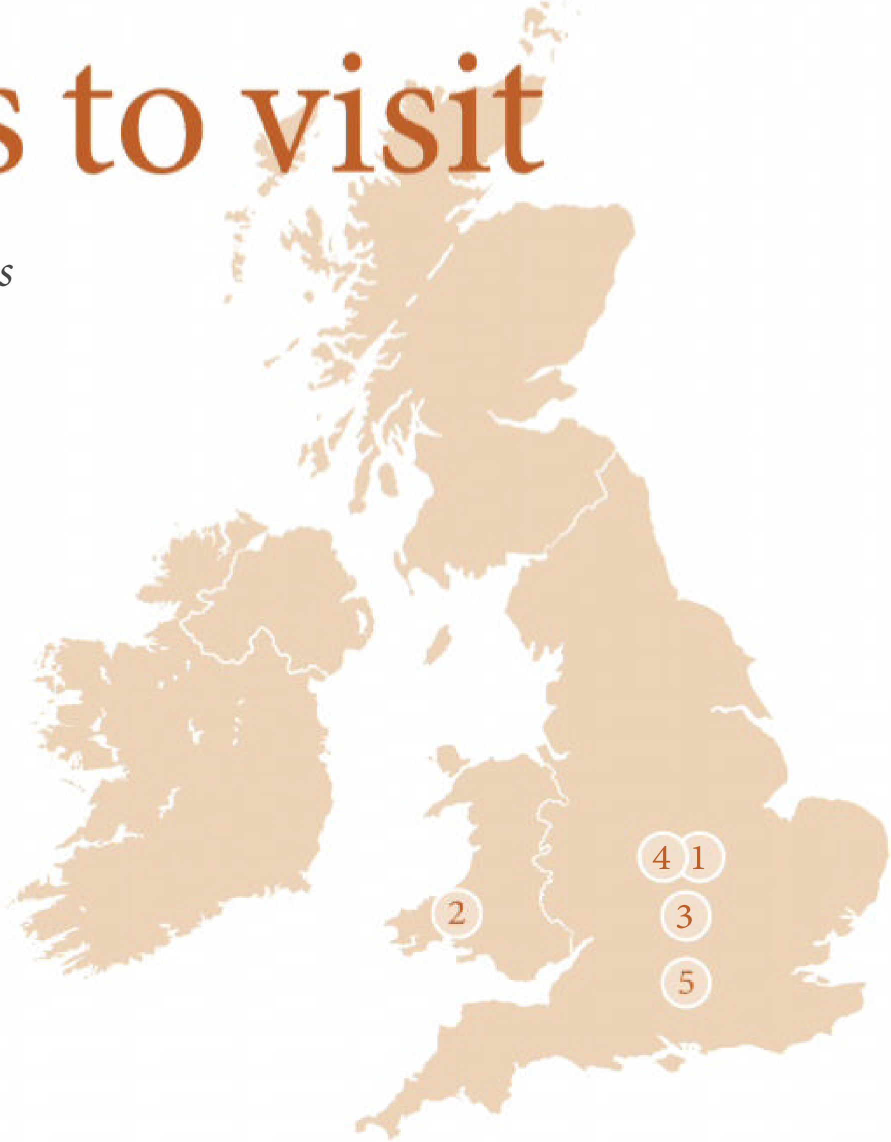
FIREPITS UK

Make the most of the late summer and autumn evenings with a beautiful fire pit handmade in South Wales by Firepits UK. Skillfully designed and built to last, these fire pits, bowls and BBQs are a versatile addition to any outdoor space. A range of hand crafted cooking accessories are also available. Pictured: 'Plain Jane' 80cm.

01873 840029
firepitsuk.co.uk

Walled gardens to visit

Autumn is a great time to visit this collection of stunning gardens



1 LAMPORT HALL & GARDENS

With 250 striking rows of perennials, planted to reflect the vegetables once grown here, the scale of unusual plants is breathtaking. Many were sourced from Piet Oudolf's nursery in the Netherlands and now provide a haven for bees and butterflies. It is at its best in the autumn.

Lamport, Northamptonshire NN6 9HD | 01604 686272 | lamporthall.co.uk

2 ABERGLASNEY GARDENS

Aberglasney was made famous by the BBC television series *A Garden Lost in Time*, which followed its restoration. Today it's one of Wales's finest gardens; a plantsman's paradise with an Elizabethan Cloister Garden at its heart. Aberglasney's grade II* listed mansion is a stunning venue for exhibitions and events.

Llangathen, Carmarthenshire SA32 8QH | 01558 668998 | aberglasney.org

3 WATERPERRY GARDENS

Eight acres of beautiful ornamental gardens, art gallery, museum of rural life, delightful teashop and quality plant centre housed within the Victorian walled garden. Join one of their wonderful annual events or if you have a passion for plants, pruning or design, sign up for one of their inspirational gardening courses.

Waterperry, Near Wheatley, Oxfordshire OX33 1LA | waterperrygardens.co.uk

4 KELMARSH HALL AND GARDENS

Set in the beautiful Northamptonshire countryside, the glorious gardens are influenced by the work of three 20th century tastemakers: Nancy Lancaster Norah Lindsey and Geoffrey Jellicoe. The garden holds exuberant flower borders, a walled garden full of vibrant colours and a magnificent sunken garden.

Kelmarsh, Northamptonshire NN6 9LY | kelmarsh.com

5 WEST GREEN HOUSE GARDENS

A classical landscape of fountains, follies and bridges that surround a lake and encloses four traditional walled gardens, with walls dating from the 18th century. There is a garden where chickens inhabit a chinoiserie pavilion, tapestry hedges hide a Green Theatre and clipped yew the Nympheaum water gardens.

Hook, Hampshire RG27 8JB | 01252 844611 | westgreenhouse.co.uk

ATTRACTIONS

National Trust

Long Summer Shadows

Sissinghurst Castle Garden

The late summer sun brings the garden into a new season of colour. A highlight at this time of year is the cottage garden which displays it's most colourful patterns with fiery yellows, oranges and reds. Visit us daily between 11am and 5.30pm, open seven days a week.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ sissinghurst-castle-garden

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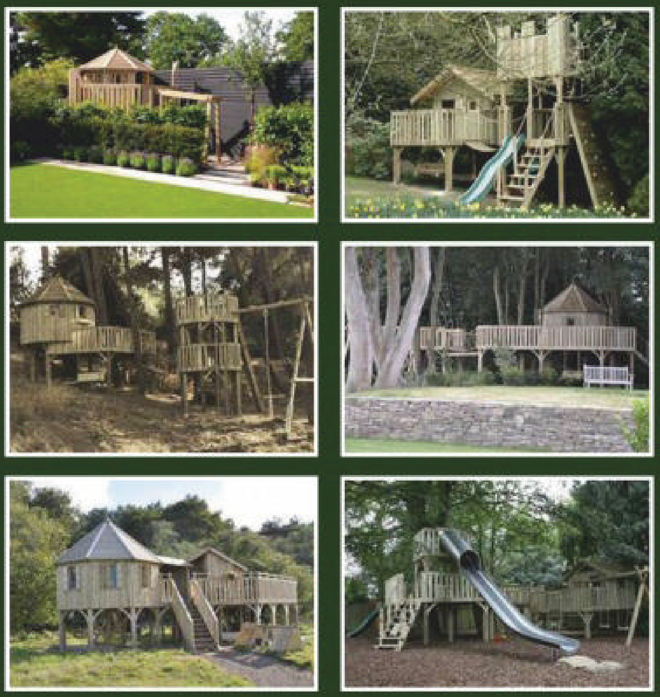

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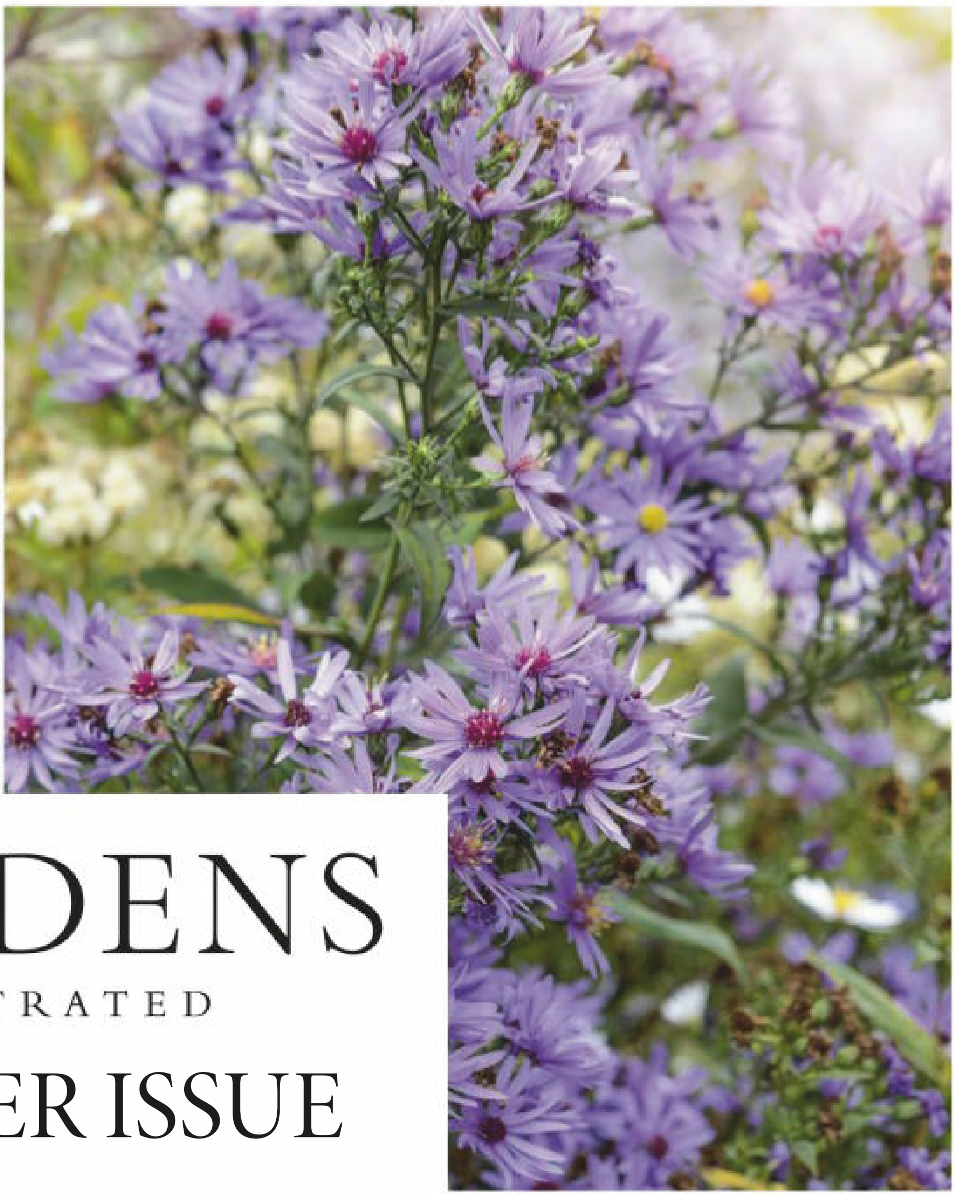

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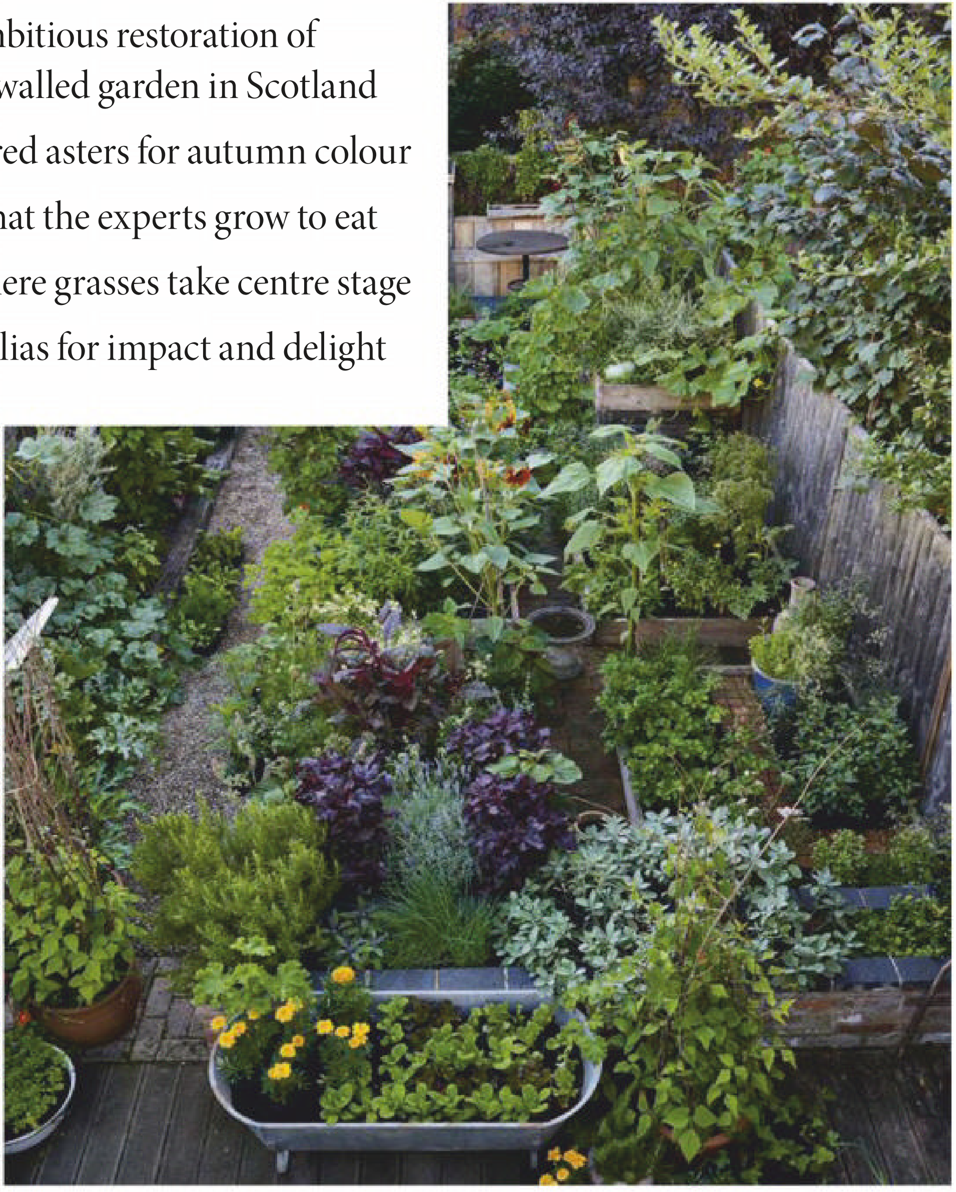

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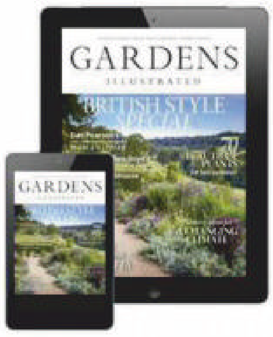

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HOUSEPLANTS

The Great Indoors

With its attractive fruit and foliage, the ornamental pineapple has become a much loved houseplant worldwide

WORDS **JESS SNOWBALL**
ILLUSTRATION **AGATA WIERZBICKA**

The pineapple, which belongs to the genus *Ananas*, is probably the best-known member of the Bromeliad family. It was first introduced into the UK in the 18th century, although at the time the expense of importing the plants combined with the costs involved in building and maintaining the specialised hothouses, known as pineries, in which they were grown was so prohibitive, they were a luxury few could afford. Thankfully, today pineapples are readily available to those of more modest means, with several ornamental pineapples commonly grown as houseplants.

Unlike most bromeliads, which are epiphytic (meaning they grow on the trunks and branches of trees) *Ananas* are terrestrial plants that grow in the sandy soils of the Amazon rainforest and coastal regions of Brazil's Atlantic rainforest. As a result their root systems are more extensive than those of most bromeliads, which are used mainly for support rather than the uptake of nutrients. In common with other bromeliads however, they also have trichomes (tiny hairs) on their leaves that capture nutrients from within the air and a rosette of leaves in the shape of a funnel, which acts as a miniature water tank, trapping and storing rainwater, allowing them to survive short periods of drought.

The most commonly available species is *Ananas comosus*, a tropical herbaceous perennial, with long, narrow, sword-like, grey-green leaves that are arranged spirally to form a rosette. One of my favourite cultivars is 'Pacifico', a wonderful reddish plant with a small, rose-red inflorescence, that becomes the fruit part of the plant, and a grey-purple crown that matches the colour of the foliage.

Pineapples are generally reliable and adaptable houseplants – my own has thrived in different rooms with a range of light sources, temperatures and humidity levels – that are surprisingly resistant to pest and diseases.

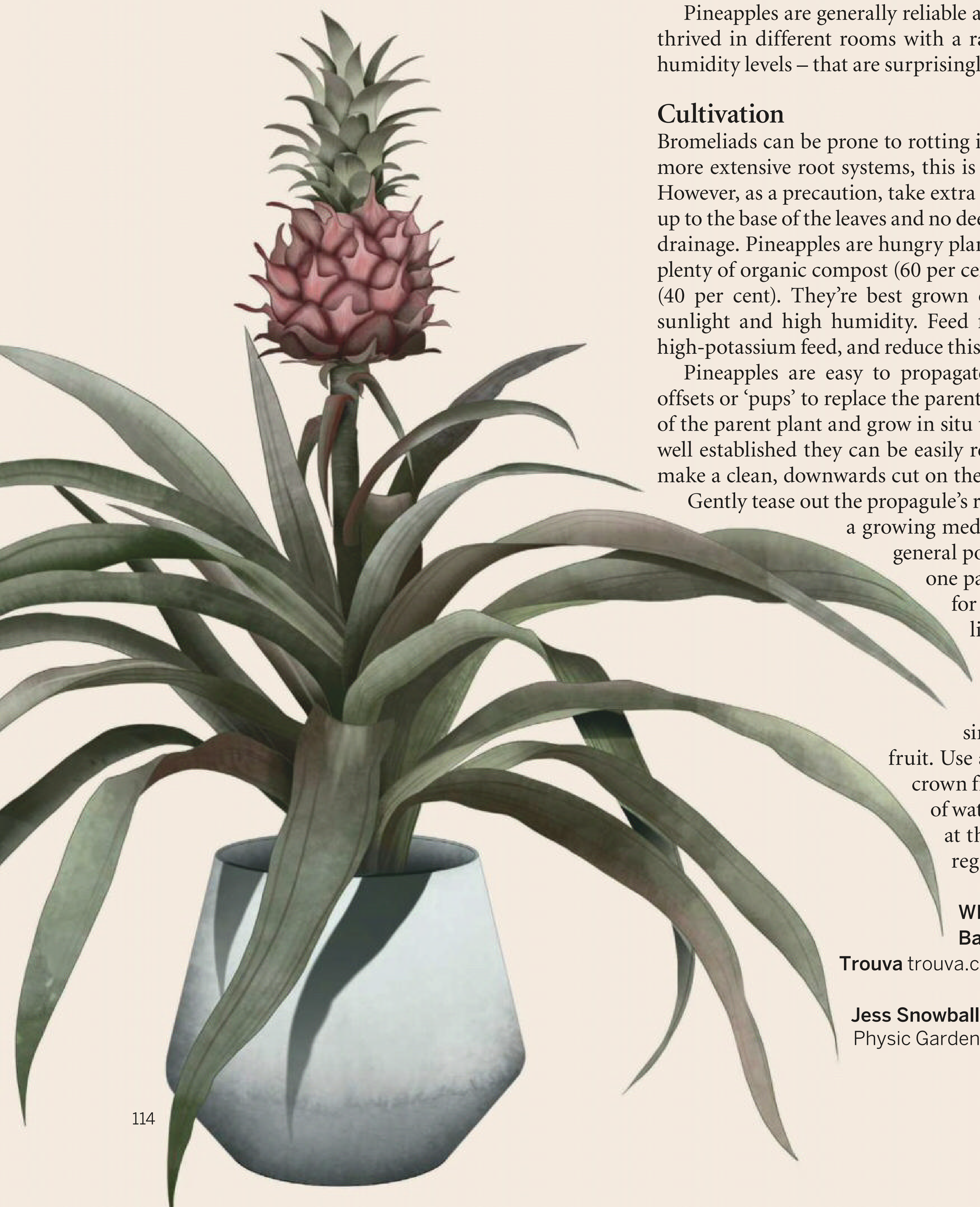
Cultivation

Bromeliads can be prone to rotting if planted too deeply, but thanks to their more extensive root systems, this is less of a problem with *Ananas comosus.* However, as a precaution, take extra care when potting that you plant exactly up to the base of the leaves and no deeper – and choose a pot that has adequate drainage. Pineapples are hungry plants that need a potting mix that includes plenty of organic compost (60 per cent), with added sand, grit loam and bark (40 per cent). They're best grown on a windowsill in bright but indirect sunlight and high humidity. Feed fortnightly throughout summer with a high-potassium feed, and reduce this to monthly, half-strength feed in winter.

Pineapples are easy to propagate as they produce genetically identical offsets or 'pups' to replace the parent plant. These pups emerge from the base of the parent plant and grow in situ to adult size, but once they have become well established they can be easily removed and grown on. Using secateurs, make a clean, downwards cut on the stem where the pup joins to the parent. Gently tease out the propagule's roots and separate them. Plant the pup in a growing medium that is three parts bark to one part general potting mix, such as John Innes No.2, and one part grit. Make sure the pot is appropriate for the size of the root system, allowing a little extra room for growth. Water in well and again whenever the soil feels dry.

You can also propagate a pineapple plant from any shop-bought fruit, simply by slicing through the crown of the fruit. Use a clean, sharp knife to remove the green crown from the top of the fruit, and place in a jar of water. Roots will emerge in four to six weeks at the base. You'll need to change the water regularly before the roots appear. □

ANANAS COMOSUS 'PACIFICO'



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